FBIS DAILY REPORT

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Vol VI No 187 *25 September 1984*

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REPORTAGE ON ALFONSIN'S MEETING WITH REAGAN

Alfonsin Stresses Dialogue

PY241430 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1109 GMT 24 Sep 84

[By unidentified special correspondent]

[Excerpts] New York, 24 Sep (TELAM) -- Argentine President Raul Alfonsin will speak today at the UN General Assembly at 1545. Afterward, Alfonsin will grant a press conference at the UN building in New York and then will meet UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

During a meeting with President Ronald Reagan, Alfonsin, who arrived in New York on 23 September, discussed with the U.S. Government the need for a dialogue between the industrialized countries and Latin American nations in order to jointly arrive at lasting and stable solutions to the Latin American foreign debt issue.

In response to this proposal, Donald Regan, secretary of the Treasury, stated on behalf of the U.S. Government that the United States deemed necessary and useful such a dialogue between industrialized countries and Latin American nations.

This was stated in a communique released in New York by presidential spokesman Jose Ignacio Lopez, reporting on the meeting held yesterday in the hotel where Alfonsin is staying. According to the document, the meeting had a cordial and positive tone. Alfonsin pinpointed the problems especially the economic ones, that the Argentine democracy is facing. The communique adds that Alfonsin also stated that one of the typical current problems is the foreign debt issue and he spoke of the need to hold talks between industrialized and Latin American nations to jointly arrive at lasting and stable solutions to this issue, and for the trade exchange and protectionism issue as well.

The communique states that President Reagan invited the secretary of the Treasury, Donald Regan, to comment on this subject and that the latter stated that the United States deemed necessary and useful such a dialogue, a dialogue which reportedly will have as a basic objective the discussion of substantive matters in relations between the industrialized countries and the Latin American countries.

The communique adds that when the Central American issue was raised, both presidents concurred on the importance of the efforts that the Contadora Group is making toward a negotiated solution to the crisis.

Alfonsin reiterated to Reagan that the willingness of the Latin American countries, which met in Cartagena and Mar del Plata, to hold a dialogue is the best way to face the current economic crisis. Thus, Alfonsin voiced his satisfaction over the statements made by the secretary of the Treasury.

In conclusion, the communique states that during the meeting both presidents concurred on the basic objectives that are the driving force of Argentina and the United States: democracy, pluralism, the dignity of man, human rights, freedom, and social justice.

Foreign Minister Dante Caputo, Secretary General of the Presidency German Lopez, Argentine Ambassador in Washington Lucio Garcia del Solar, and permanent representative to the UN Carlos Muniz attended the meeting as members of the Argentine delegation.

Reagan was accompanied by U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz, Secretary of the Treasury Donald Regan, U.S. Ambassador to the UN Jeane Kirkpatrick, Counselor for National Security Affairs Robert McFarlane, Assistant Secretary for Inter-American Affairs Langhorne Motley, and U.S. Ambassador in Buenos Airs Frank Ortiz.

For his part, U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz stated that Reagan had a very positive impression of the Argentine chief of state, adding that the U.S. President was very pleased and impressed with the advent of democracy in Argentina. In statements to journalists at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel upon the conclusion of the meeting between the two presidents, Shultz said Reagan expressed his support for the democratic government of Argentina since the two governments jointly support the democratic changes in that region of the continent.

Meeting 'Promising'

PY250340 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1445 GMT 24 Sep 84

[By special correspondent]

[Text] New York, 24 Sep (NA) -- A diplomatic source today stated that President Raul Alfonsin will pay an official visit to the United States in March or April 1985 and that the visit will constitute "a new stage in bilateral relations." The spokesman for the Argentine delegation indicated that "it is not improbable that Foreign Minister Dante Caputo and U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz will talk extensively in Brasilia in November during the OAS meeting."

Both Argentine and U.S. diplomatic sources have described Reagan's meeting with Alfonsin yesterday as "very good and promising.

Argentine delegation spokesmen said that the Reagan-Alfonsin meeting "marked the rapprochement between the two governments and concluded the moves that Caputo has made in this regard, which were totally reaffirmed by Alfonsin."

It has been learned that during yesterday's meeting Shultz praised the moves Caputo made during his visit in April. Based on Caputo's visit in April and on yesterday's meeting, Argentine sources consider that "bilateral relations are currently stable [estan an una meseta]." The sources said that "the Argentine Government is not aligned with the Reagan administration but that points of agreement are within the framework of serious and mature relations regardless of existing disagreement over some matters." They said that Alfonsin's strategy consists of creating a balance between Argentina's continuous confrontation and at times continuous alignment with the United States thus far."

Sources close to the Argentine delegation commented very favorably on U.S. Treasury Secretary Donald Regan's support for promoting a meeting between developed countries and Latin American debtor countries. Asked about Regan's current stand as opposed to previous stands, the sources said that "Regan's stand is not necessarily contradictory but rather a certain adjustment to the decisions that the Latin American countries have adopted on the foreign debt issue." The sources said that this adjustment by the Republic administration was perceived after Consensus of Cartagena signatory countries issued the communique of Mar del Plata. Following this document, U.S. officials realized that "the Consensus of Cartagena constituted a serious attempt to seek solutions and that it did not promote the formation of a debtors front."

It was recalled that President Alfonsin has always maintained the need for each country to negotiate their debts separately. However, it was pointed out that although the proposal for a dialogue made by the participants of the Cartagena meeting and by Donald Regan "are somewhat different, Washington's attitude nevertheless is positive."

Diplomatic sources who were asked about the effects Alfonsin's moves in New York could have on Grinspun's activity in Washington said that "all the president's actions support the debt negotiations," adding that "the negotiations are made on a timely basis and important aspects are being concluded."

Caputo Comments

PY241600 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1450 GMT 24 Sep 84

[By unidentified special correspondent]

[Text] New York, 24 Sep (NA) -- Foreign Minister Dante Caputo today stated that the meeting between Raul Alfonsin and Ronald Reagan marks the "conclusion of the initial stage in the bilateral effort to improve relations" between Argentina and the United States. Caputo reiterated that as the Argentine communique reflected, the meeting was "cordial, positive, and substantive because of the wide range of matters that the two chiefs of state discussed." Caputo stressed that "it is a significant fact that the two delegations were satisfied upon the conclusion of the talks."

Asked about the development of bilateral ties after this meeting, Caputo declined to make any comments "for the time being" but added that "possibly in a few weeks it will be known how the relations stand."

ALFONSIN ADDRESSES UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

PY242019 Buenos Aires Argentina Televisora Color Network in Spanish 1953 GMT 24 Sep 84

[President Raul Alfonsin's speech to the 39th UN General Assembly in New York -- live]

[Text] Mr President: In the first place, I would like to convey to you my personal congratulations for your unanimous election to the high post that you are holding. Our satisfaction is two-fold: first, because your well-known human and professional qualifications represent an invaluable contribution to the success of the tasks of the UN General Assembly, and second because you represent Zambia, that is, Africa, a brotherly continent with Latin America whose hopes and claims we share. I would also like to convey our appreciation to Dr Jorge Illueca, the Panamanian chief of state and a prominent Latin American diplomat, who was successful in presiding over the 38th General Assembly. We Argentines have special reasons for being grateful to Dr Illueca. We are also welcoming Brunei to this organization. Its membership again enhances the universality of this forum.

Mr President: Ten months ago, when Argentina recovered its democratic status, I told the Argentine Congress that the foreign policy that we would develop involved a natural extension of our domestic policy. Both were to be based on the same aspirations and, above all, on identical standards. Thus, since we do not practice two types of morality we do not have two policies.

Everything that drove us in the political struggle, those internal convictions which guided and assisted us all these years, were based, in short, on standards necessary for my country. Those values reach beyond a nation and a territory. They can be applied to government actions which set rules for domestic political life, to the way in which we manage our relations with other states, and to the positions we take when facing the problems of the international community.

In the final analysis defining an ethical system as the source of political action, is an option which calms the conscience of the ruler and affronts the practical and concrete challenges of our times. It is not an abstract or idealistic position, it is rather something essential. It is to know what government is for; it is to know what kind of society we want for our countries; it is to know what kind of world we seek for mankind.

I permit myself this reflection because I am convinced that the world order is suffering from a dangerous distortion. The simplest evidence of this is the fact that there are countries which do not seem to desire for the rest of the world the same things that they desire for themselves. In my opinion, this is the result of replacing the moral concept of world order with a concept of power. This may be called an ingenuous reflection. But let us see where the so-called pragmatic ideas have led us.

Mr. President: There are two problems affecting our world, the crisis in political order and the crisis in the international economic order. In the political order of the world we can observe how strategic reasons tend to define, almost exclusively, relations between states. Because of those strategic concepts, a new stage has been initiated in the nuclear arms race which is making the borderline between peace and war still more precarious and feeble, that is, the borderline between life and death for mankind. The strongest powers are blaming each other for this tragic prospect, while the great majority of the countries of the international community remain mere observers.

The observers and the active participants seem to follow separate logical patterns: the logica of peace, receptive to ethical arguments, and the logica of the arms race which is the result of a political conception of power based on threat. The worst part of it is that those who follow one of these logical patterns do not listen to those who follow the other, they do not even hear those on the other side.

Then what is the point of our arguments if there is no room for them in the logical pattern of the others, the very ones who have the power to change the situation? What can we do to make our ethical reasons change the reasons for power and threats?

In fact, everything seems to indicate that our role is restricted to making claims and at some point denouncing the prevailing status quo. However, we will persevere with our desperate call because we are aware that it is necessary for us to be permanently heard defending freedom. This is what prompted me to sign the declaration of 22 May 1984 together with the chiefs of state and Governments of Greece, India, Mexico, Tanzania, and Sweden. In that declaration we stated that we share the conviction that there must not be another world war and that the march toward global suicide must be halted. The world cannot waver between a devasting nuclear war and peace. We must make joint efforts to influence current and future events.

This position on peace has remained unchanged throughout the various democratic governments of my country. Thus, following the course outlined by President Hipolito Yrigoyen, one of my predecessors, Arturo Frondizi said in 1961 to the 16th UN General Assembly: Argentina's international policy has invariably displayed exemplary continuity, maintaining three basic principles of civilized coexistence: juridical equality of states, nonintervention in domestic affairs of other nations, and self-determination of peoples. We have opposed foreign intervention and any type of political, economic, juridical, or ideological pressure of one nation against another.

Moreover, I believe that the maintenance of peace is part of a much broader reality in which we are not mere spectators. In fact, the world's peace is not only threatened by the arms race. International political order not only is gradually becoming a greater military strategic order but is also becoming increasingly dependent on the international economic order.

Throughout these past decades we have related political order to East-West tension, and we refer to economic order when we speak about the North-South relationship. Although we differentiate one relationship from the other, one of them between equal parties, the other between unequal parties, the two relationships are not isolated from each other. This is so true that I think we can maintain that peace as well as security could be seriously threatened by the great world imbalance between rich and developing countries.

The national conflicts, in a developing world characterized by instability and social tension, have increasingly become the focus of attention for strategic interests. The development of social and economic tension in the south attracts the interests of the great powers. As a consequence, our territories become the field in which the two powers harass each other.

In the first place, this only causes local conflicts to worsen. As a consequence, although the sufferings continue to be national, the conflicts increasingly become international affairs. In the second place, this interference only worsens the strategic conflict itself and as a result the balance in the Northern Hemisphere, although unstable and dangerous, is counteracted by conflicts in the developed world. We have and will continue to witness this mechanism by which a national conflict gains nourishment from the strategic conflict to the point of dramatically disintegrating some nations. Therefore, in addition to our own problems there is a conflict, explicit or inexplicit, between the great powers on a third field of confrontation: the countries of the Southern Hemisphere.

To sum up, I believe there are two things that threaten peace: on one hand, the arms race and the direct strategic confrontation between the great powers; on the other hand, the instability, injustice, and poverty plaguing the south. We have little bearing on the first, while in the second we are directly involved.

An an example of this last point, it would suffice to note the very serious current economic situation in some African regions, a situation caused by a persistent drought and by the lack of material resources which are indispensable to achieve self-sufficient growth and development. Africa must receive the brotherly support of the entire international community to overcome this crisis without unfortunate consequences. This will not only involve solutions which are convenient to the developing countries but the understanding that their fate directly affects the industrialized world.

The ethical reasons which lead us to ask for a more equitable international order are matched by practical reasons, because an unjust world is today more than ever an unstable and insecure world. Justice in the south is today more than ever a necessary condition for peace to prevail in the north.

The Nonaligned Movement and the Group of 77 have clearly noted the situation of injustice and instability that I have described. The international community as a whole and the industrialized countries in particular must show their willingness to pay heed to the economic and political proposals made by those organizations which represent two-thirds of the human race.

Mr President: I have stated that one of the signs of the times is that international relations are day to day relations between powers rather than relations between societies. Furthermore, I must say that another fact that draws our concern is that the economic order is turning into an exclusively financial order.

These are dramatic distortions that must be halted because a world where politics is replaced by arsenals and economies by finance is, simply put, a world in danger. We cannot accept that the future we wish for mankind should be built on the basis of arms and money. Therefore, I repeat that an ethical revival is vital for our civilization.

Mr President: It is painful to witness the recession in our countries. Until a few years ago, we were demanding the improvement of trade and technological conditions which would allow a closing of the gap between us and the more advanced countries. Today we demand to cease to be exporters of financial wealth to the industrialized countries.

In 1983 the Latin American per capita production was 10 percent lower than in 1980. We have moved back 6 years, because we had reached that level in 1977. This has had a strong effect on the prosperity of our people, including a reduction in our incomes because of the deterioration of the terms of foreign trade.

While our economies have decayed and cannot use their production capacity and while employment and prosperity have been reduced, we also find ourselves with a foreign debt crisis, a debt which last year signified, just based on interest, nearly one-third of the exports of the region.

The international commitments assumed during the first and second decade of development, commitments sponsored by the United Nations, were forgotten; commitments for the transfer by the most advanced countries of 1 percent of their GNP to the developing countries. Paradoxically, those commitments have now been reversed. Now it is the developing countries which must transfer part of their GNP to the developed countries, and not 1 percent per year but 3 percent per year and sometimes more.

This burden and the need to reestablish a rational and reasonable financial system has prompted us, Latin Americans, to engage in a dialogue, a dialogue between the wealthy nations and ourselves, a practical dialogue concerning one of the issues which most disrupts the financial system and the stability of our countries, the foreign debt.

We feel that this debt does not affect the debtor countries alone, but that its political impact is a matter of direct concern for the creditor nations as well. We believe that should the manner remain unchanged in which a solution to the problem is being currently sought, no lasting and safe solution will be found. The current situation has no resemblance to the situation prevailing at the beginning of the seventies. However, the solutions being offered are the same. Only joint political will can provide us with solutions to a problem which no longer abides by traditional patterns. The foreign debt issue seems to be closely tied to the political and social fate of our countries, and because it affects the entire region, Latin America's global stability is at stake.

The meetings held in Quito, Cartagena, and Mar del Plata this year are the best evidence of the seriousness of this situation, along with our prudence and self-control which led to a call for a dialogue with creditor nations. We hope that the answer to this call will be positive because dialogue is not, as some have said, confrontation. Confrontation usually results when dialogue is denied and I believe that both logic and political experience prove this.

Perhaps, starting with this specific issue, we could make true the much-touted North-South dialogue which has so far yielded no practical results. This demand for peace that Argentine democracy makes has authority because we have acted with determination to preserve peace regarding those events in which we have directly participated. In one of those conflicts, the one with the Republic of Chile, my country has advanced with decisiveness. Within the framework of the mediation of His Holiness John Paul II, whose intervention we appreciate and thank him for, my government has shown its firm desire to find a fair solution to a century-old controversy. Talk of peace converted into real peace through dialogue and negotiations is what we can exhibit to the international community.

Regarding another conflict, the one we have with the United Kingdom over the Malvinas, South Sandwich, and Georgia Islands, our willingness to negotiate has been met with intransigence. Mr President, a portion of Argentine territory has been subject for almost 150 years to a colonial regime imposed by the United Kingdom. This injust and illegal situation that has never been validated by Argentina permanently affects our national life. The mission to recover for our patrimony the Malvinas, South Sandwich, and Georgia Islands is a motto that successive generations of Argentines have conveyed to us to the present, and this process will continue until this mission is fulfilled. There can be no doubt about this because it is a cause deeply felt by my people. The law protects us. If this is not acknowledged it means ignoring one of the most important points of the existing problem between my country and the power occupying the islands.

This national cause is also shared by Latim America, which with solidarity has defended our territorial integrity as its own, a Latin America that is alarmed by the presence in the South Atlantic of a military force with the most modern arms which threatens the interests and stability of the entire area and brings the dangerous East-West confrontation into the region.

Argentina is firmly committed to seek the return of the Malvinas Islands only through peaceful means. This is what my government has declared and will pursue. There should be no doubt about this to anyone. Our concept of democracy, now fortunately recovered for my country, offers two points; one domestic and one foreign. The first deals with fully enforcing the Constitution with the resulting limitations on the exercise of state power and fully respecting human rights. The second, as I said, has to do with relations with other countries. The projection abroad of our democratic way of life is accomplished by acting in a civilized manner respectful of the law, and this can be summarized by respect for legal rules in relations between states.

The UN Charter, a real constitution for the international community, imposes on its members an obligation to resolve their controversies through peaceful means. In line with this juridical duty, my government has made an effort to achieve the highest flexibility possible compatible with the rights of the country and has sought to resume negotiations with the United Kingdom to resolve this conflict. Naturally we would also like to see the normalization of the friendly relations Argentina has held with that country but this cannot occur if from the beginning of the attempts to obtain it one does not have the assurance that a mechanism will be established for negotiations of the sovereignty dispute, which is the main obstacle in the path to normalization.

Unfortunately, in the recent bilateral contacts, which concluded with the Bern meeting sponsored by Switzerland and Brazil, the only thing that seems to have been achieved is the United Kingdom's clearly expressed decision to postpone sine die its compliance with the urgent appeal of the General Assembly that the parties should sit down at the negotiating table. I wish to express my thanks to Brazil and Switzerland, and to the secretary general, for their meritorious efforts. I also wish to express my vehement desire that the General Assembly call be complied with as soon as possible for the benefit of law and justice.

Next year the international community will celebrate the 40th anniversary of this organization. There is no doubt that the United Nations has carried out an essential role in seeking international peace and security in the economic development of countries and in the eradication of colonialism. Its work is not finished. I am convinced that the large majority of its member states will give their utmost cooperation and show their willingness to achieve an international system that is based on justice and the social, cultural, and material progress of nations.

With these objectives in mind we cannot but today express our very deep concern regarding southern Africa, where colonial structures and racial discrimination persist, thus violating international law and morality. Namibia must become independent once and for all. The unjust system of apartheid must definitely be eliminated. Those who suffer under it can continue to count on the support of the civilized world.

There are points of tension and armed conflict in the Middle East and in the region of the [Persian] Gulf that must continue to receive the special attention of the United Nations so that just, peaceful, and quick solutions can be achieved.

The situation in Central America is also of very special concern for my country and, we are sure, of the rest of the world's countries. We understand that the proposals and negotiations of the Contadora Group, which has received the express support of the General Assembly, are the appropriate elements for achieving the desired peaceful solution to that conflict, which is so painful for all Lain America.

Mr President: I believe that if relations between powers replace relations between men, then we will have lost the ethical reason that guarantees humanity's progress and peace. No one must doubt, if one reviews history, that civilizations live and grow when they are founded on moral bases, and that their extinction is caused by ethical confusion. And I believe that the ethical confusion of the world order is increasingly being determined by the arms race and financial greed.

If this confusion persists there will be no welfare for the majority of our countries, and we must recall that what affects the south will, sooner or later, affect the welfare of the more advanced countries. I decidedly believe, and this has just been ratified by John Paul II, that today development is the new name of peace. Thank you very much.

Holds Press Conference

PY242221 Buenos Aires Argentina Television Color Network in Spanish 2100 GMT 24 Sep 84

[President Alfonsin's press conference at the United Nations in New York -- live]

[Text] [Alfonsin] Ladies and gentlemen: Good afternoon. I am very grateful for your presence here at this press conference. I am now at your disposal so we can start when you wish.

[Samayusev, president of the UN correspondents -- translated from English into Spanish] In the name of the UN correspondents, I would like to welcome Your Excellency. My first question is: During your UN speech, you said that your country is seeking normalization of relations with the United Kingdom. What do you think should be done to create the necessary environment to normalize those relations?

[Alfonsin] I believe that it is very clear that what Argentina wants, Argentine democracy, I want to emphasize this, is to return to the situation existing before the military conflict. I believe that the only way to start the discussion for the recovery of our sovereignty is to fulfill the UN resolution compelling the two parties to try to solve this conflict through peaceful negotiations.

[Scotman -- translated from English into Spanish] Does Argentina, apart from all the short-range financial arrangements, believe that overall negotiations and a new international economic order are the major vehicles to solve the economic imbalances and inequalities of the economic situation as well as the dilemma of the Third World?

[Alfonsin] I believe this is an indispensable mechanism. We believe there is a need for responsible dialogue between the north and the south. In this regard, we believe that a step forward has been taken, not a final step but a step forward. This step was taken by the U.S. Government through Treasury Secretary Donald Regan who said that a discussion with Latin America will be held over the general economic problems of Latin America, the general economic problems of the developing countries. This is precisely the answer we were awaiting because as a result of the meetings we held in Cartagena and Mar del Plata we decided to ask for this type of dialogue. We did not think it was possible to discuss as a whole all the problems of the debt. I do believe, however, that it is possible that at the same time that we in Latin America make our economic and financial policies compatible, it should be realized that this is a problem that goes beyond the economic field; it is an extremely important political problem. Therefore, I do believe, to answer your question, that this is an indispensable element for finding a new international economic order and world justice.

[Roberto Cohen] What is your opinion about the recent announcement made by Nicaragua that it accepts without reservations the proposal of the Contadora Group and that it demands that the U.S. Government formally promise to end its so-called secret war?

[Alfonsin] I believe that it is very important that Nicaragua has accepted the Contadora proposal, a proposal that covers all the problems of this country, including the problems with the United States. I believe that if this proposal is accepted it would be easy to consider that the threats to U.S. security would be overcome, and in this case I believe that the situation can actually turn around and this can be very beneficial.

[Silvia Odovit] Mr President, let's go back to the Malvinas issue. Has Argentina ever thought of resorting to arbitration to resolve the conflict with Great Britain?

[Alfonsin] No, madam, no type of arbitration is appropriate.

[Unidentified journalist] Thousands of Argentines living abroad are eager to exercise the right to vote abroad. Do you have immediate plans to give us that privilege, and if you plan to do so would the referendum on the Beagle be the starting point?

[Alfonsin] We are studying that possibility. I do not believe that the solution will be found in time to vote on the Beagle Channel issue. It should be made clear that this is not a referendum but only a consultation.

[Santiago Rio] I would like to ask a question which is personal, philosophical. Is the impression you have of political power now somehow different from the impression you had not long ago during the electoral campaign in your country or when you went to Europe?

[Alfonsin] Are you referring to political power in my country?

[Santiago Rio] Yes.

[Alfonsin] This is almost a subjective question. You mean how I feel about power? I feel it as a very heavy burden.

[Santiago Rio] Does it correspond to the image you had during the electoral campaign?

[Alfonsin] I realized it was going to be hard but I believe it has gone beyond my imagination.

[Gonzalez] Mr President: Last Tuesday the president of Panama and outgoing president of the 30th UN General Assembly, Jorge Illueca, referred in his speech to several Latin American problems such as the foreign debt, the possible reorganization of the OAS, the Malvinas issue, and the issue of the, quote, independence of Puerto Rico, unquote. Do you believe that when the OAS is reorganized the question of the independence of Puerto Rico should be one of the Latin American issues to which the OAS should give priority?

[Alfonsin] I would not dare to give an affirmative answer.

[Peterson -- in English] Mr President: there has been a great deal of talks in this country that the Latin American debtor countries are going to declare a moratorium on the debt. Can you comment on this or give some reassuring opinion on this matter?

[Alfonsin] I do not believe anyone has talked about a unilateral declaration of a moratorium. I can say that Argentina will honor its commitments, that it wants to pay the debt and it will pay it. I would also like to say that this is why we have not reached an agreement so far with the IMF; we want to work and we cannot accept recessive measures that are going to prevent us from paying the debt. I hope this is reassuring enough.

[Bustamante] In addition to the positive answer you had from President Reagan for a meeting between the Latin American countries and the industrialized nations, did you discuss the increase of the U.S. bank interest rates, and what other issues did you discuss with President Reagan, issues particularly related to Argentina?

[Alfonsin] We discussed several issues with President Reagan. I do not believe we discussed in particular the increase in the interest rates. This is an issue Argentina has mentioned several times. Reagan knew quite well our position on this matter. The conversation, from which we came out quite satisfied, was frank. It dealt of course with some issues linked to the need for a meeting between the Latin American countries and the United States to consider the overall debt and economic situation of our countries. I pointed out that what we have been doing cannot under any circumstance be considered a confrontation. I said that I did not believe that there was any event in the history of the Americas in which a dialogue of this nature was refused. Therefore, I would like to reiterate that we are quite satisfied with this first step taken through the statements of the secretary of the Treasury. We also discussed the drug problem. In this regard, I explained the efforts being made by the Bolivian Government to fight drug trafficking. I believe that this effort deserves the support of all the Americas, Latin America and the United States.

[Claude Robinson -- in English] Mr President: You mentioned the need for a broader political approach to the foreign debt. Can you tell us what you have in mind and if you consider the meeting between Latin Americans and U.S. Treasury Secretary Regan as the first step or as the only step in this process?

[Alfonsin] I do not believe this can be the only step in this process. During the meeting we will have an opportunity to explain our difficulties or problems. Of course, there are different kinds of problems. Not all the problems created by the debt in the Latin American countries are the same, but there is a common denominator that unites us all in this spiral that is leading us closer to poverty, thus increasing the breach separating us from the developed world.

I believe that the path will open as we continue to progress in the conversations. I cannot define what kind of agenda the meeting will have, but I believe that the way to achieve a new international economic order will have to be discussed with frankness, including how our exports can be increased to the United States, as with the measures recently approved for steel and copper.

Measures of this kind could increase the possibility of a more rapid payment of the Latin American debt because our debt is in dollars and dollars can only be obtained from exports. Therefore, at the same time that we are asked to pay we should be allowed to export. This is what we all want: work, exports, and pay, thus fulfilling our commitments.

[Veronica Lopez] What do you believe are the specific steps still needed to reach a broader agreement with the Chilean Government, and do you believe that the disagreements that have emerged in your country due to the call for a plebiscite can obstruct this process?

[Alfonsin] The disagreements have not emerged from the plebiscite but from the different concepts people have about the problem. I do not believe there will be any problems. I believe that the majority, the overwhelming majority of the Argentine people, are going to support the position of the government, a position that is not linked to any particular political ideology. Regarding the time for an agreement, I cannot say.

[Franciosa] Economy Minister Bernardo Grinspun is now in Washington. Last week it was reported here that Argentina reached an agreement with the IMF. The report says that Argentina wants to negotiate separately, like Mexico, with the IMF, leaving behind the less favored countries like the Group of 77.

[Alfonsin] No, it has nothing to do with leaving behind anyone. We, the countries of Latin America, continue to negotiate individually with the IMF. But this is well known and it is conveyed to the other countries of the region because we do not intend to negotiate together with the IMF. But we do want the IMF and the north in particular to understand our common problems and this is why we want to unite and to make our policies compatible, especially our financial policies, so as to have greater strength during the negotiations.

[Hahenbach -- in English] Mr President: I wonder if you could go back to your answer to a question from a colleague about the Malvinas issue, that the only way to negotiate with Great Britain is through the UN resolutions. However, Great Britain has not even accepted the good offices of the UN secretary general. What do you believe could be done to return to the negotiations?

[Alfonsin] We are going to persist in all international forums; Argentina is also willing to hold bilateral talks under the condition that the agenda include the problem of sovereignty. We are willing to maintain this kind of contact to start the solution to our problems.

[Diaz] In case the papal mediation fails, will the Argentine Government be willing to take the problem to The Hague International Court of Justice?

[Alfonsin] We believe that the papal mediation cannot fail. We are convinced that we are going to reach an agreement with Chile within the framework of the papal mediation.

[Juan Carlos Canet] Your government has repeatedly said that it will not accept the recessive measures such as unemployment, low salaries, and recession in a settlement with the IMF. Now that Grinspun has announced an agreement with the IMF, can it be assumed that the IMF has given in to its demands?

[Alfonsin] No, what Grinspun announced was a technical agreement, but a final agreement has not yet been reached.

[Unidentified reporter] What do you believe are the first steps the Argentine Government can expect from the U.S. Administration?

[Alfonsin] There are many things the Argentine Government can expect. We believe it would be useful if we could export our products to U.S. markets. In this way, the bankers would be happier because we could pay faster.

[Unidentified reporter] I have reliable information that a large and important group of U.S. businessmen are going to Buenon Aires to exchange information with Argentine businessmen about investing capital to help revive the Argentine economy and international trade. What would you say to potential investors around the world about investments now that Argentina has recovered democracy and has political assets of undeniable value?

[Alfonsin] I would say that there is only one limitation for investment. It must be good business for both sides.

[Misserick] Do you consider the current international mechanisms for financing assistance to pay debts satisfactory? If they are not, do you have any suggestion for other subsidiary mechanisms?

[Alfonsin] I would have to tell you, sir, that we are engaged in discussions with one of those organizations, and so it would not be advisable to make any criticism at this time. However, I do think that they should be modified. In the case of the IMF, which in my view tries to apply an identical prescription to countries with very different situations, when it speaks of austerity in a developed country where more than 50 percent of the GDP corresponds to the worker sector, it is austerity; but when it speaks of austerity in my country, where the working class accounts for only 17 percent of the GDP, trying to reduce salaries, this is not austerity. This means hunger, poverty, putting people out of the country's mainstream. So first of all, we will have to begin by looking at problems in a different way, in accordance with the situation in each country. On the other hand, I think that it would be necessary to have the possibility, both at the IMF and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, for more credit, special drawing rights, and several other measures that could be taken so that there can be a substantive change in the international economic order.

[Unidentified reporter] I have just returned from Venice where I had the chance to see a great Argentine movie, "The Children of War." Is your government supporting the Argentine movie industry which could have worldwide distribution but which has lagged behind for 20 years?

[Alfonsin] Yes, madam, we are trying, and I think that the men and women in the movie industry are helping themselves, taking advantage of the freedom which is finally a channel for these creations. I have just seen here China Zorrilla who has just made a very good movie. There are funds that can be loaned through the development bank to the movie industry, and through this mechanism many good movies have been made.

[Tadick] Regarding the Malvinas, one of the first impediments noted by Great Britain is the lack of a formal declaration of cessation of hostilities. What is your position in this regard? In the second place, would you be willing to consider a solution for the Malvinas similar to that for Hong Kong, in which the government and the population are not to be changed for a period of time?

[Alfonsin] As for the first question, the peaceful attitude of Argentina has been proven by the fact that nothing abnormal has occurred during the past 2 years. This is just a technicality. The serious thing is that Great Britain is fortifying the islands, bringing modern armaments, maintaining an exclusion zone. It has even been said that the presence of Great Britain is necessary for NATO. It would be necessary for SATO, the way I see it, because the Malvinas are in the south. To solve this problem we could accept a Hong Kong type solution measured in months, not in years, or we would accept that the islands are returned to us in 5 years, 3 years, but not in 29 years. We would like this return to take place during the life span of our generation.

[Mejia] The Argentines must make the foreigners who support the British position in the Malvinas conflict understand that to hold something that was stolen 150 years ago does not grant ownership rights. It seems that the countries that support the British Government do not yet realize that this is the real question, that something has been stolen and that long possession does not grant right of ownership.

[Alfonsin] I agree, madam.

[Estela Vergara] I am Estela Vergara from Chile. I would like to ask you if the fact that your country has returned to democracy has helped to resolve your country's economic problem?

[Alfonsin] Obviously, madam. And in addition, you must know that democracy permits rectifications. What happens with authoritarian governments is that due to the lack of freedom the social counterbalances do not work and, therefore, the rectifications that should be made to prevent countries from falling to pieces are not carried out. This happened in Argentina, where, I would say, due to ideological fanaticism we have a foreign debt amounting to $45 billion, which was not used to capitalize our country. Other countries have been capitalized when they contracted debt. In Argentina this has definitely not happened. On the contrary, the debt has served to destroy our economy, because we imported products that we ourselves manufacture, we got in debt, we closed down factories, and we increased unemployment. Anyway, in a very short time we have achieved an increase in employment by opening up 150,000 more jobs. Maybe this is not due to the government's talent, if you put it that way, but, yes, it has been due to the effort of the Argentine people. We have achieved an increase in the productive capacity of several sectors; there was a lot of idle capacity and at the present time there is hardly any, although some still exists in the construction sector. And despite the fact that we have not resolved the problem of refinancing the foreign debt, there has been some investment, not all the investment that we need, but we believe that once we have resolved this matter, democracy, which is directly linked to social justice, will permit Argentina to definitely overcome this process, which I would say is more a process of decadence than a process of stagnation.

[Schaeffer, in English] You joined the peace declaration [words indistinct] those five nations. What is your opinion today regarding peace and what do you consider to be the most important steps to be taken now in order to achieve the objective that was outlined in that declaration?

[Alfonsin] I believe, sir, that the countries that have signed that declaration can do very little. What we must do now is to influence the public opinion of each of the countries. We must do this intelligently, with moderation, and we believe that only public opinion itself can effectively put a brake on government actions, the public opinion of each of the countries. In this respect, I believe we should meet, and without a doubt we are going to meet. The signers of this declaration are going to meet again to outline a mechanism that can be used.

[Unidentified reporter] Mr President: Talking about democratic rectifications, you and your government have received the Sabatto report and I believe you find yourself in a dilemma. This is my question: Will the guilty and the people that helped in the atrocities be punished with the full strength of the law, or will these actions just be condemned as an aberration?

[Alfonsin] You must not ask that question of me. This matter is going to be placed in the hands of the courts and the courts will act according to the law.

[Unidentified person in English] Thank you, President Alfonsin.

COUNCIL WILL NOT ISSUE VERDICT ON JUNTA MEMBERS

PY250237 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2215 GMT 24 Sep 84

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 24 Sep (TELAM) -- The Armed Forces Supreme Council will reportedly abstain from issuing verdicts in the trials of former members of the three military juntas charged with committing excesses during the antisubversive war. According to sources close to the interforce juridical organ, this is the conclusion of the final report that will be sent to the Federal Court tomorrow. In the report, the Supreme Council will reportedly state that it is not authorized to issue a verdict. The sources explained that the council believes that it is not possible to issue a verdict on the basis of partial evidence [principio de prueba].

In those cases where positive prima facie evidence has been found, a strict preventive prison order was issued, as in the case of former de facto President General Jorge Rafael Videla, retired, and former Navy Commander in Chief Admiral Eduardo Emilio Massera, retired.

The report requested by the federal tribunal will be handed over by the Armed Forces Supreme Council tomorrow. It has been learned that the council will not ask for a new extension of the deadline established in connection with the trials.

CONADEP SEIZES ARMS, DOCUMENTS IN ROSARIO

PY210314 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2300 GMT 20 Sep 84

[Text] Rosario, 20 Sep (TELAM) -- The National Commission on the Disappearance of Persons [Conadep] today raided several houses in Rosario with the permission of the local courts. During these raids, various firearms of different calibers, political records, and other documents of great value for the commission were seized. The raids took place on order of and under the personal supervision of Judge Francisco Martinez Fermoselle of the 10th court who accompanied the Conadep members. The material seized was left in the custody of the judge who will begin the appropriate investigation, since the documents mention many person who are missing according to the records of the Santa Fe police.

ARMY MANEUVERS TO TAKE PLACE IN MISIONES

PY220326 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0311 GMT 22 Sep 84

[Text] Buenos Aires, 21 Sep (TELAM) -- Army units will engage in military maneuvers on Monday, 24 September, in an area close to Posadas, the capital of Misiones Province. This information was disclosed tonight by the Argentine Defense Ministry. The maneuvers are the climax of a course on conventional and special operations which started 1 month ago.

The maneuvers will be viewed by Defense Minister Raul Borras, Army Chief of Staff Division General Ricardo Pianta, and the commander of the II Corps headquartered in Rosario, Brigadier General Victor Pino. During the maneuvers, light and heavy armament will be used as well as land operations, communications, and troop transport materiel.

VICE PRESIDENT FALLS FROM HORSE, BREAKS LEG

PY241240 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0102 GMT 24 Sep 84

[Text] Brasilia, 23 Sep (TELAM) -- The health condition of Brazilian Vice President Aureliano Chaves, 55, is satisfactory. Chaves yesterday broke his left leg when he fell from a horse and last night underwent surgery in Brasilia.

The directorate of the Sarah Kubitschek Hospital today reported that the operation to implant a platinum plate in Chaves' femur presented no complications at all.

It is thought that Chaves will be fully recovered within 2 months.

The accident took place in the ranch that Chaves owns in the state of Minas Gerais and he was flown into Brasilia.

Chaves is the top leader of the liberal dissidents of the government party who support opposition presidential candidate Tancredo Neves.

President Joao Figueiredo, who is in San Paulo undergoing physical therapy to recover from troubles with his spine, sent a message to Chaves wishing him a prompt recovery.

SARAIVA GUERREIRO ADDRESSES UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

PY242222 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1751 GMT 24 Sep 84

[Text] United Nations, 24 Sep (EFE) -- After criticizing the "monologue on intransigence" of the superpowers and condemning their rivalry, Brazil today called for joint negotiations with the industrialized world to solve the developing nations' debt problem.

"The United Nations has been once again deeply affected by the corrosive rivalry between the superpowers," Brazilian Foreign Minister Ramiro Saraiva Guerreiro said in his speech to the international organization.

"Never before has mankind been so closely united in the fulfillment of a common destiny. Yet the international community's capacity to act has increasingly deteriorated, giving rise to a situation that is dangerous to us all," Saraiva said.

The Brazilian diplomat was the second speaker in the first session of debates of the General Assembly, which was opened minutes before by U.S. President Ronald Reagan.

After saying that the United Nations is "a common heritage of political wisdom," Saraiva Guerreiro remarked that the organization "is not a monopoly of any country or group of countries, and cannot remain inactive either."

The Brazilian diplomat urged the international community to become more actively engaged in the decisionmaking process at the world level. Its participation "will halt the current monologue of intransigence, which has replaced the negotiation process that should be held by those who, through dialogue, should have discharged the major responsibility they share in the maintenance of the security of the world," he said.

"Under such a paralyzing influence, disarmament talks may lose sight of their ultimate and compulsory objective: general and total disarmament under effective international control," Saraiva Guerréiro said.

He stressed that this "confrontation, covered by different ideological facades, has only served to raise the level of terror, not of security. He added that "politicians have already realized that this rationalization of the quest for power is tragic."

In addition to analyzing the international situation, Saraiva Guerreiro called for a joint search for solutions to the foreign debt problem. Brazil is one of the countries most badly affected by the international financial crisis, both at the Latin American and at world level.

"On previous occasions," the Brazilian diplomat said: "I reaffirmed the need to reverse a growing tendency that has eroded one of our most valuable resources: international cooperation at the service of our development, an essential factor in the management of the commercial and financial system."

In an open allusion to the United States, Saraiva Guerreiro condemned the "unilateral manner" in which economic formulas have been imposed. Even though such formulas have curbed inflation, "they have generated evil mechanisms through which debtor countries have transferred their resources to subsidize the prosperity of industrialized nations," he claimed.

The Brazilian diplomat insisted that the search for solutions to the debt problem must be undertaken jointly by creditor and debtor nations.

He said that the meetings recently held in Quito (Ecuador), Cartagena (Colombia), and Mar del Plata (Argentina) have attested to the Latin American efforts to promote this dialogue. "We hope this time our call will not go unheeded," Saraiva Guerreiro said.

In the first part of his speech, the Brazilian foreign minister praised Panamanian Jorge Illueca, the president of the 38th UN General Assembly, and congratulated Zambian representative Paul Lusaka, who was chosen to preside over the current session. He also congratulated the Brunei Government on its being accepted as a UN member, which has raised the number of UN members to 159.

At the regional level, he stressed that "there will be no lasting solutions if the basic principles of self-determination, mutual respect among nations, and democracy are not respected."

In this regard, he said, it is essential that the Contadora Group conclude its task successfully.

Saraiva Guerreiro also expressed the hope that the United Nations will help solve the Malvinas conflict between Great Britain and Argentina by implementing resolution No 502 issued by the Security Council.

CORRECTION TO MILITARY WORRIED ABOUT 'REVANCHISM'

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Military Worried About 'Revanchism' Under Neves", published in the 19 September Latin America DAILY REPORT, page D 1, second paragraph, line one:

... Social Democratic Party [PDS] Senator Moacyr Duarte... (changing surname "Dalla" to "Duarte")

GOVERNMENT GRANTS SALARY BONUS FOR FOUR MONTHS

PY250042 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 25 Sep 84

[Text] Compensatory salary bonuses will be paid beginning this month, Economy Minister Modesto Collado has said. A 400-peso bonus as a family allowance will be paid to workers earning less than 30,000 pesos per month from September through December.

The economy minister also said that his ministry is not studying any price control measures. He announced the implementation of the salary compensation bonus that was adopted on 17 September by saying that a salary compensation bonus of 400 pesos per month as a family allowance will be paid during the months of September through December to workers earning less than 30,000 pesos per month. This bonus will be paid to active servants, including civilian, military, police, court, municipal, university, noncollective bargaining state enterprises personnel, and the retired sector. The same bonus will be paid to persons who receive an allowance under the single family subsidy and to workers under the Minimum Employment Program and the Household Head Employment Plan. As for the private sector, the adoption of this measure is recommended provided that the expenditures are not transferred to prices.

The present measure is incorporated in a bill that the executive branch is submitting to the government junta, the economy minister said at the end of his announcement.

LABOR LEADERS SUMMONED TO INTERIOR MINISTRY

PY250010 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 25 Sep 84

[Text] Political leaders who have been called to the Interior Ministry continue to make statements before Arnaldo Toro Leiva. Manuel Bustons, Jose Luis di Giorgio, and Raul Montepinos made their statements today. These three leaders plus another seven have been called in because they may have violated the state security law.

Juan Claudio Reyes, a Christian Democrat politician, will make his statement tomorrow. Enrique Silva Cimma and Luis Barria are now traveling abroad; thus they have not yet made their statements. The other six leaders who have made their statements before the functionary hearing the case, Arnaldo Toro Leiva, have unrestricted freedom.

ARCHBISHOP ABSENT FROM PINOCHET CEREMONIES

PY241622 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2206 GMT 22 Sep 84

[Text] Santiago, 22 Sep (EFE) -- The archbishop of Concepcion, Jose Manuel Santos, was not present at any of the ceremonies attended by President Augusto Pinochet during his recent visit to that southern city, 500 km from Santiago.

The archbishop, who is also acting president of the Chilean Episcopal Conference, was not present at Concepcion Airport when Pinochet arrived and he did not see him off yesterday, which is traditional when the president visits the provinces.

Msgr Santos decided not to celebrate the traditional Independence Day thanksgiving ceremony on 18 September. He also prohibited the clergymen of his archdiocese from attending any of the official ceremonies where any of the regional government officials were to be present.

The archbishop's attitude had its origin in a serious exchange of discordant letters with the regional intendant as a consequence of alleged encounters reported by military authorities which never really took place, according to the archbishop. Based on reports by witnesses, Msgr Santos charged that the reports of alleged encounters, in which three civilians died at the end of August, were lies.

The intendant of Concepcion, General Eduardo Ibanez, when replying to the archbishop, accused him of "blindness."

FRENCH ENVOY REQUESTS NEWS ON PRIESTS' DEATH

PY212326 Paris AFP in Spanish 2142 GMT 21 Sep 84

[Text] Santiago, 21 Sep (AFP) -- French Ambassador to Chile Leon Bouvier today asked the government to inform him about the progress of investigations into the shooting of French priest Andre Jarlan, who was killed during the latest day of protest against General Pinochet's government. I have not received any information so far and I believe it is necessary for me to be informed as soon as possible, the diplomat said upon leaving a meeting with Foreign Minister Jaime del Valle.

The French priest died while reading a Bible in the rectory of La Victoria, a workers neighborhood, on Tuesday, 4 September and initial reports by witnesses indicated that the shots were fired by the Carabineros.

I feel that I have the moral and legal right to be informed, Bouvier said, about the investigations which are being handled by a judge who has been granted broad powers.

Before meeting with Foreign Minister Del Valle, the French ambassador met with Supreme Court President Rafael Retamal last week.

RADIOS MINERIA, GALAXIA EXPELLED FROM ARCHI, AIR

PY221322 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 22 Sep 84

[Text] Radios Mineria and Galaxia FM have been expelled from the Association of Chilean Broadcasters [ARCHI]. This information was disclosed by ARCHI President Ricardo Besanillas in a message to Chilean radio workers. ARCHI Secretary General Carlos Wilson later confirmed the measure adopted against the two radios for not respecting an agreement that establishes that all radios must not transmit on Radio Workers Day.

Wilson indicated that Radio Mineria has violated a labor union unity agreement and showed disrespect for radio workers. He added that Radio Workers Day has been traditionally commemorated for the past 40 years and it was ratified 2 years ago through a general ARCHI agreement in which Radio Mineria participated. Wilson said that for this reason Radio Mineria and its sister station Radio Galaxia have been automatically expelled from ARCHI and the Inter-American Radio Broadcasting Association, and that it is not necessary to send any notification.

Based on the rotation system for radio stations on Radio Workers Day, this year it was Radio Cooperativa's turn to stay on the air.

DE LA MADRID, UK TRADE MINISTER HOLD TALKS

FL241820 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0145 GMT 22 Sep 84

[Text] Mexico City, 21 Sep (NOTIMEX) -- Mexican President Miguel de La Madrid today held private talks with UK Trade Minister Paul Channon and several British businessmen at Los Pinos official residence.

There was no announcement as to what was discussed. Presidential sources only said that the chief of state had attended a working meeting with the British delegation during which trade topics of bilateral interest had been taken up.

President De la Madrid and Minister Channon held talks prior to the meeting held in the Juarez Hall of Los Pinos residence. Others attending the meeting were Foreign Secretary Bernardo Sepulveda Amor and Adolfo Hegewisch, under secretary for regulation and foreign investment of the Commerce Secretariat.

SEPULVEDA AMOR ADVOCATES ACTIVE FOREIGN POLICY

PA221438 Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 11 Sep 84 pp 1 A, 16 A

[Report by Felicitas Pliego]

[Excerpts] Mexican Foreign Secretary Bernardo Sepulveda declared yesterday: An active foreign policy is not the sole privilege of the powers, but the right of all nations that, based on their responsibilities, participate in the community of states to preserve harmonious, beneficial, and just coexistence. He added: The complexity of the international scenario forces us to pay special attention to foreign policy matters. To shun this responsibility would be tantamount to letting foreign influences determine our country's destiny.

Sepulveda stressed that there have not been and cannot be any changes in a policy of principle that fulfills the supreme duty of safeguarding the nation's basic interests. This policy springs from deep in our history as an independent and sovereign state and is an inseparable and indelible part of Mexico's national plan. Sepulveda indicated: "We hold intense and varied exchanges with the United States. In addition, we share a number of interests. We discuss our common problems with dignity, candor, and responsibility and seek the best solutions for the benefit of Mexico." Mexican-U.S. relations receive priority attention.

In the report he presented yesterday to the Senate and the Chamber of Deputies foreign relations committees, Sepulveda stressed that in Central America the use of economic pressures, violence, and military means serve only to aggravate existing problems and lead to bigger conflicts. He also said that the Contadora Group is advancing patiently, devotedly, and firmly toward a genuine negotiation of conflicts, thus defeating those who promote war and destruction. He recalled that, in 20 months of intense efforts, Colombia, Mexico, Panama, and Venezuela have laid the foundations for and made feasible these negotiations.

Attention to Current Challenges

Sepulveda stressed the priority treatment Mexico grants its relations with Latin American and Caribbean countries. These relations came about as the result of an attentive, coherent, and political interpretation of our history and the current world. This interpretation is based on a true acknowledgement of a process rooted in geography and culture and that acknowledges the need to heed current and complex problems and challenges jointly and in full cooperation.

He went on to say: We hope that actions by the international community will serve to make reason and law prevail. In addition, we are convinced that the United Nations will continue politically and morally assisting efforts to deter warlike trends and prevent the spread of violence to the detriment of world peace and security.

Contribution for Peace

Mexico adheres firmly to UN principles and purposes and reiterates its political willingness to maintain an active contribution to peace and development. We struggle to ease tensions and also advocate disarmament and the creation of areas free of nuclear weapons. We advocate the elimination of conventional arms trade, which stimulates conflicts and checks the development of poor countries. We harbor hopes that the scientific and technological resources of our time serve the cause of life exclusively.

Sepulveda also said: We again reject the use of force in relations among the states and reiterate the need to respect the peoples' territorial integrity and sovereignty and the basic principles of nonintervention and self-determination. We consider the refugee question especially important and reiterate our traditional policy of granting asylum and refuge to all persons forced to leave their country of origin.

The Contadora Group Advances

Sepulveda said that as a result of the genuine efforts by the Mexican Government, particularly those of the president, improved communication between the Nicaraguan and U.S. Governments has been achieved. Representatives of the two governments have met five times, four of them at Manzanillo, trying to reach a bilateral agreement to reduce tension, return to normal relations, and create the climate needed for the solution of Central America's problems. Sepulveda then proceeded to explain that the Contadora Group is moving forward firmly toward genuine negotiations, thus defeating those who promote war and destruction.

He added that the group's efforts have been centered on three basic, interrelated goals: stopping warlike confrontations in the area, creating conditions for authenic peace, and fostering a process of economic and social development in the region. As the sole alternative to a generalization of conflicts in the area, the group members have both the support of the international community and the recognition of Central American countries as the appropriate forum for the solution of the serious and dangerous conflicts of the area.

To Address UN General Assembly

FL241950 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2243 GMT 22 Sep 84

[Text] Mexico City, 22 Sep (NOTIMEX) -- Mexico will urge the nations participating in the 39th UN General Assembly to put an end to the nuclear and conventional arms race which threatens world peace.

Mexico's Foreign Secretary Bernardo Sepulveda Amor pointed out that the regular meeting of the General Assembly is taking place at a time of grave international tension in the political and economic sphere. He stressed that a proof of that are the lack of a dialogue between the superpowers and various regional conflicts threatening world peace and security.

He added that the chasm between industrialized and developing nations is becoming increasingly wider and, to date, they have been unable to initiate systematic negotiations to establish a more equitable international economic relationship.

The Mexican foreign secretary affirmed that his country together with the nations participating in the Cartagena Accord will contribute to the establishment of a general political framework which will make it possible for responsible and balanced commitments between debtors, creditors, the banking industry, and international financial agencies.

During the meeting the results of the Contadora Group's peace efforts in Central America will be made known and it is hoped that the proposal will be accepted by the five countries in the region. The peace initiative sponsored by Mexico, Argentina, Greece, India, Sweden, and Tanzania last year, aimed at freezing the arms race, will also be put forward.

Mexico's foreign secretary will hold talks with chiefs of state and counterparts attending the meeting to exchange views on matters of common interest. Likewise, Sepulveda Amor will attend a meeting in San Jose, Costa Rica, next weekend.

NETHERLANDS' VAN DEN BROEK QUOTED ON CONTADORA

FL221610 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0130 GMT 22 Sep 84

[Excerpts] Mexico City, 21 Sep (NOTIMEX) -- Hans van den Broek, minister of foreign affairs of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, has said here today that it would be hard to replace the Contadora Group with any other organization to continue the peace-seeking process in Central America.

Holland has reiterated its support for the diplomatic efforts of the group, made up of Venezuela, Colombia, Panama, and Mexico, but the solution of the regional problem undoubtedly depends basically on the Central American countries, the foreign minister said.

Van den Broek, who will travel to New York tomorrow to participate in the UN General Assembly that starts next week, today concluded the offical program of his visit to Mexico during which he met with President Miguel de la Madrid and high cabinet officials.

Praises Mexico's Arms Control

PA242005 Mexico City THE NEWS in English 22 Sep 84 p 5

[Text] Dutch Foreign Minister Hans van den Broek praised Mexico's arms control and peace efforts Friday but said the modern-day need for nuclear deterrence cannot be ignored either.

He said the Netherlands plans to go ahead with installation of Pershing-II missiles in 1985 if the Soviet Union continues to increase its medium-range nuclear forces.

Van den Broek made his comments at a breakfast meeting with members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. While much is said in opposition to nuclear weapons, he said, "one can't ignore the deterrent power of atomic weapons."

The Soviet Union, he said, has 1,000 nuclear weapons targeted on Europe while the West has only 100 medium-range nuclear weapons based there.

The Netherlands is "worried" about the nuclear arms race, including the existence of present stocks, but they are necessary in order to have a deterrent force, Van den Broek said.

"We should keep working for a reduction of the level of armaments," he said, "but this should be done by both sides."

Van den Broek also praised Mexico's "wisdom and perserverance" in tackling its economic problems.

Addressing the North-South issue, he said the greatest assistance the industrialized countries can give to the developing nations is to provide "sufficient purchasing power and import financing." Touching a chord close to Mexican officials, he called on the industrialized nations to forego enactment of protectionist measures that restrict the markets of the developing countries.

He also called for the industrialized countries to transfer through a United Nations' agreement one percent of their gross national product to the developing countries for capital development.

In regard to the huge U.S. budget deficit, which has Europeans as concerned as Latin Americans, Van den Broek said he is confident that the new U.S. administration, whether Republican or Democratic, will tackle the deficit problem "in a serious manner" that will allow a "breaking of interest rates, which are causing serious damage to indebted economies."

Quoted on Interest Rates

FL241928 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2125 GMT 22 Sep 84

[Text] Mexico City, 22 Sep (NOTIMEX) -- Hans van den Broek, minister of foreign affairs of the Kingdom of the Netherlands said today the decrease in U.S. interest rates opens new perspectives for debtor nations because it will benefit their economies.

When interviewed at Mexico City International Airport before departing for New York, the foreign minister exhorted European and Japanese financial institutions to follow the example of their U.S. colleagues to assist in the development of poor nations and, in the end, the entire world because we are all in the same boat.

He said increases in interest rates seriously hurt the financial structure of debtor nations and slow down such priority programs as creation of jobs, medical and education aid, and all industrial projects.

Van den Broek said that his visit to Mexico had had very positive results inasmuch as during his conversations with President Miguel de la Madrid they had discussed important problems of mutual interest and the coming meeting in San Jose, Costa Rica, which the foreign ministers of the five Central American nations, the 10 EEC nations, and the 4 Contadora Group nations, will attend.

Van den Broek also reiterated the wish of the Netherlands to give moral and economic aid to the peoples of Central America.

BRIEFS

NEWSPAPER OPENS -- Mexico City, 19 Sep (NOTIMEX) -- Today a new newspaper, LA JORNADA, was published here. It is a 32-page tabloid staffed by a select group of reporters. Its editor is Carlos Payan Velver. [Excerpt] [Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2045 GMT 19 Sep 84 FL]

FURTHER REPORT ON VISIT BY EL SALVADOR'S DUARTE

Duarte on Contadora, Nicaragua

PA231454 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 2217 GMT 22 Sep 84

[Salvadoran President Jose Napoleon Duarte press conference at the Washington Room of the Panama Hotel in Panama City; reporters not identified — live]

[Excerpts] [question] Mr President: Your tour has included three Contadora Group countries: Panama, Venezuela, and Colombia. In your previous trips to Europe you visited France, Belgium, and Germany. However, you have not visited the fourth Contadora Group country, Mexico.

[Duarte] The fact that Mexico has not been included in my tour is of no significance. I would glady visit Mexico on an official visit. Regarding my trip to Europe, you mentioned some countries and left out others. My idea is to visit every country, because I believe I should talk to the peoples, governments, and the political, economic, and social leaders of all the countries of the Western world to bring to them the message of who we are, what our situation is, and what we want to do in our country.

With this in mind I had planned to visit all of South America, Ecuador, the Dominican Republic, Peru, Brazil, Argentina, and so fourth. Unfortunately, I had to cut my trip short because of the visit to El Salvador of the German economic cooperation minister, who is coming to put the final touches on the economic aid that Germany is offering and will continue to offer El Salvador. Therefore, I have had to cut short my tour and return to El Salvador after visiting these three countries.

[Question] We learned here that during your trip to Venezuela and your meeting with Venezulean President Jaime Lusinchi, you mentioned the possibility of expanding the Contadora Group. What exactly did you say?

[Duarte] I believe that we all know that the Contadora Group's efforts which are the efforts of good offices have faced some moments of crisis, of difficulities, but thank God we can view it as a possibility. After the statements I made and signed in Venezuela with President Lusinchi and in Columbia with President Betancur and following the statements made by Honduran President Roberto Suazo Cordova -- President Suazo and I have sent messages to President Monge for him to speak on our behalf to the European ministers and express our wishes and commitments that Contadora be successful — there is no room for doubt that there are some problems we must face.

Now that Nicaragua's Sergio Ramirez apparently announced yesterday that they are willing to consider the approval of the conditions of the Contadora Document; this appears to dispel the question of whether the document will be signed or not when it is presented on 15 October. If to this statement we add the European stance proposed by President Monge during his trip to Europe and later ratified by me during my trip to Europe, to this represents a pat on the back for Contadora, if a conclusion is reached then we could reach some kind of positive result, some kind of a result for those who are skeptical as to what can happen in the future. [sentence as heard] Allow me to exlain myself.

First of all, I believe we would all be very happy to see all the Central American countries agree to sign the Contadora Document. However, signing the Contadora Document could bring about results that must be analyzed.

First of all: What course of action will the Contadora Group countries adopt once the document has been signed? Will they sign the document and conclude their business by doing so? What will the European countries do once they support the Contadora Document and see us all at the table signing the document? What will Contadora do? What will happen to us? Will we have signed the document with a serious and firm determination of fulfilling each and every point as the document calls for? How will we be able to ensure that all the countries will respect the contents of the document? What will happen if there are foreign forces that refuse to respect our acceptance of the document and wish to continue destablizing and endangering our nations? I believe all these questions must worry us.

As I said in Venezuela, and as I say to you today, the signing of the document alone is not enough. When I was in Europe I told the Europeans that their romantic support of Contadora is not enough. We need much more. We need the determination of the European peoples to help Central America overcome the situation it is experiencing. The aid of all the countries that have intervened in the Central American phenomenon is needed. We cannot overlook the fact tht Cuba has been present throughout the Central American problem and that it has been training subversive groups for Central American countries. Cuba has not been satisfied with provoking problems in Central America but is doing the same in Africa and other areas. Will Cuba remain calm and quiet just because we have signed a document in which we stated that the Central American countries will be putting forth a great effort for peace?

The United States must also protect its own stability. Will it do nothing while seeing that problems could arise and that its own security endangered? Will the wave of expansion of the Central American phenomenon stop here or will the so-called dominoes fall into Colombia and Venezuela?

I believe that the phenomenon we face is much too large, powerful, and dangerous for the stability of America and our peoples. I wanted to bring these questions up so that we do not build our hopes up. But this does not mean that we must be pressimists and say that we will do nothing. No, let us do something, let us sign the document, let us support the 21 points, let us give it every effort. We the Salvadorans, when we sign or promise something, we fulfill it to the letter and I promise you that once that document is signed El Salvador will respect it and will demand that it be respected so that in this manner Central America will put forth every effort so that together we may achieve peace. This is the summary of what I had said and today say to you.

[Question] Mr President: El Salvador is experiencing a political situation involving the military and the rebels. Would your government consider negotiations to achieve a pact similar to the one signed in Colombia between the rebels and the Colombian Government?

[Duarte] Each people, each nation, each circumstance demands solutions to the problems faced. I would not like to try to find similarities, much less try to repeat certain actions or positions. However, I cannot ignore the fact that amid all the existing difficulties, President Betancur is making a huge effort, with political determination, to achieve peace in his country.

We in El Salvador are also making a brave effort. I have committed my political will. Just as a while ago I spoke about Contadora and peace in Central America, I am also willing to seek peace in my own country.

I took over a country in the midst of a process of democratization. This involves going from a military dictatorship to full democracy. This process is not achieved overnight. It means confronting various idiosyncrasies and beliefs. In my country there are those who have traditionally praised the military men so that dictatorships could be imposed and maintained. These dictatorships have led to abuses of authority, the bolstering of the culture of terror, and so many other sad things that we have seen in our homeland, which, along with our country's various structural phenomena, have been the main causes of so much violence and crisis.

When the great majority of our people saw themselves unable to freely express their feelings; when thousands upon thousands of citizens were humiliated and mistreated; when poverty, hunger, malnutrition, and the lack of opportunity became the center of society; when the people began losing their hope, and electoral possibilities were seen as based on fraud and impositions through the use of the entire military structure, that was when the problems started. That is when some, the more radical, the more frustrated, the ones who were most pained by these developments, took to the mountains and became guerrilla members.

So at the bottom of the entire phenomenon we are currently experiencing there lies an entire process that is the result of 50 years of dictatorship, and this is what we have to correct. The Armed Forces saw this on 15 October 1979. They realized that things had to change. This is why they staged a coup in 1979, issued their proclamation and announced: We no longer want to be used as an instrument in this phenomenon. We will give the people what they want and need; we will engage in a process of democratization. This is the story of the last 4 years, which perhaps many people have not understood. Unfortunately, the cup had already run over and the pain had spread everywhere; death was everywhere, and the social bomb had already exploded.

At that point we stepped in to help the Armed Forces fulfill their commitment, the one set forth in the Armed Forces proclamation. During the past 4 years we have gradually moved the country from dictatorship to democracy. I am now president of the Republic because one day the military men convinced themselves of the situation and decided to open the valves that had been traditionally closed, and it then became possible to hold absolutely free elections. The government junta could have remained, but since we were convinced that democracy represents a risk for the government itself, at the end of the elections, and even though we had obtained a relative majority, we turned power over to the national constituent assembly elected by the people. This is why we left the government. However, this gave us the moral force and authority to return even more earnestly and present ourselves to the people to be judged. The people realized that democracy was the right path, and this is why they elected us. By fulfilling its duty, the Army has respected that will. This is why I am now the president of the Republic, because you may remember that for many years many people, especially the military men, were told that I was a communist, that I was not a suitable choice, that a coup would have to be staged, that I should not be allowed to take over the administration, and I do not know what else. However, the Army remained firm and loyal and turned the administration over to us. This is why I am now president of the Republic; because the people wanted it and because the Army understood its responsibility.

[Question] Within this framework of democratization, when you took office there was also talk of an amnesty.

Would this amnesty be extended to the unionists, especially those of the Union of Electrical Workers of the Lempa River Hydroelectric Executive Commission [STECEL]? Those poor people have been in prison for 4 years.

[Duarte] The amnesty is a part of the entire process of opening doors. I have said there will be an amnesty at the right time, along with all the other measures that will accompany it. Naturally, this will not exclude those workers who, several years ago, staged an action that endangered the national stability. I think we will obtain the results very soon. I know that trials are about to conclude and we will have the results very sooh. My wish is that everyone charged with committing a political crime or one concomitant with political matters can benefit from the amnesty and can be released so they may participate in our people's democratic life. I have no reservations in this connection.

[Question indistinct]

[Duarte] Well, I could not say that. I believe that should fall to those who have made the decision, but there is no doubt that prior to my departure from El Salvador the Nicaraguan leaders' stance was a harsh one. They had rejected the 21 points. I think that Nicaragua's stance at the last meeting was evident. The meeting was held here in Panama, and you were able to observe it. Now there has been a change. I do not know if this has anything to do with my talks with the representatives of the Contadora Group or with the upcoming presence of the European prime ministers and foreign ministers who are coming to Costa Rica. Just imagine how grave it would be if they all arrived in Costa Rica, over 25 prime ministers and foreign ministers of the Western world, and we all said: We agree to endorse the Contadora Group, and just one country were to say no. I think that all these things must be taken into consideration. In the Central American phenomenon and crisis, perhaps El Salvador and Nicaragua were the two countries over which there was some apprehension in connection with the Contadora Group. Some felt that El Salvador was in no position to endorse the Contadora pronouncement, but I have made it very clear that I am willing to endorse the Contadora Group's 21 points. Naturally, this isolated Nicaragua. I repeat: I do not know if it has anything to do with my visits, but if it does I am very pleased and I thank God that we have managed to take another step forward.

[Question] [Words indistinct] PLAYBOY magazine [words indistinct] interview [words indistinct] that the United States is the one really running the war in El Salvador, that the American soldiers are the ones who suggest what strategy is to be implemented, what kind of rifle or equipment is to be used, when to fight, (and so on).

[Duarte] That is absolutely false.

[Question indistinct]

[Duarte] I am not familiar with the magazine. [Reporter interrupts]

[Question] The magazine's correspondent visited with you... [Duarte interrupts]

[Duarte] I do not know, they did interview me. Perhaps this is how they interpreted it, or perhaps they were making a biased judgment. However, I can tell you that I am the general commander of the Salvadoran Armed Forces and that the decisions made in connection with our military problems are made by both the High Command and the general commander of the Armed Forces. Just as I do not accept decisions about the fate of my people by anyone but Salvadorans themselves, I can say the same about any other area: economic, political, social, military, and even the international arena.

I think that my line of conduct is already known to the public: In my trips through the world I have held a firm and clear stance, even with regard to the United States and the U.S. Congress, where I defined my political position. In many areas, not all of them, I have disagreed with the policy implemented by several other nations, including the United States.

My position on this is that I must look after my country's security. The Salvadoran Armed Forces are ready and are capable of defending the nation. At moments of crisis I am and will remain on the side of the Armed Forces, to make whatever decisions need to be made. I have demonstrated this in the past, for instance, when the Armed Forces were faced with the guerrillas' seizure of the Cerron Grande Dam. I was with the High Command to make the decisions that had to be made at that point.

[Question] What specific actions is your government carrying out to achieve peace in your country? Also, how far is it willing to go in negotiations with the guerrillas?

[Duarte] I think I should tell you, and I have already begun doing this, about some of the specific things that we are doing to gradually resolve these problems. For instance, in a little less than a month a public debate will be held in the United States. [Presidency Minister] Julio Adolfo Rey Prendes will be there to participate in a televised debate that will presumably include [FDR leader Guillermo] Ungo, although I do not know whether he will accept. We, however, will participate in that debate, with Rey Prendes aas our representative.

Another thing we have already done is send two delegates to Portugal. One of them was Dr Rene Fortin Magana, who is not a member of the Christian Democratic Party, as he belongs to Democratic Action. He participated in a debate there along with Dr Juan Ricardo Ramirez Rauda. They held a public debate with Ungo on the problems of El Salvador. We do not fear these debates on our homeland's problems because we think reason is on our side. We are acting conscientiously; we have nothing to hide from the people; we are acting openly. So this is what we are doing.

Now, what can I surrender to the guerrillas? Well, I will be frank: I will not yield power because the power is not mine. The power belongs to the Salvadoran people, so it is up to the people to decide.

[Question] Mr President, [words indistinct] what international guarantees will there be, especially in the [word indistinct] zone, as the military aspect has been one of the problems with Nicaragua?

[Duarte] You are putting your finger on the wound. I do not know if you were here when I made my first statement and noted that signing a document is not enough, that in addition there should be some kind of guarantee. We are very worried because Nicaragua's support of the export of revolution has been both unfair and illogical. It has supplied weapons and provided training, support, and logistics to the Salvadoran guerrillas.

If their intention is to sign a document to deceive other peoples while continuing to be the cancer exporting Marxist revolution and totalitarianism in Latin America, they are very wrong. Therefore, we must have assurances that in addition to the signing of a treaty, an agreement or peace document, there must be a method of control to guarantee El Salvador that Nicaragua will not continue exporting its revolution.

Moreover, I said this the day I took office, I have continued to say it, and I repeat it now, We have always respected them, we demand that they respect us.

[Question] You express doubts about the manner in which the (?specific) agreements established in the Contadora Document might be fulfilled. But the document specifies that the agreements are legal and therefore binding, and it mentions the creation of various commissions made up of individuals who would supervise (?the fulfillment) of the agreements.

[Duarte] That is all very good, but I am talking about the human element, and when dealing with such an element, the most important thing is to have the will to fulfill the agreements. Among humans one finds both deception and goodness. I am working from the premise that any document signed, whether legal or not, is based on two things: determination and good faith. I plan to sign the document in good faith, and I am making the commitment to sign it in order to fulfill (that effort) with determination. I hope all the other parties show the same good faith and determination. If that is so, gentlemen, we will have peace in Central America. Otherwise, this will go on, as has been the case with many treaties signed. For instance you may remember all the treaties signed by Iraq, Iran, Lebanon, Israel, Egypt, the entire Middle East. They sign these documents, they take some action, and then they continue shooting at each other and killing people. You have just seen the incident in Beirut, how people were killed there unjustly and cruelly. Treaties have been signed there; treaties there were based on laws and were meant to be fulfilled. However, they have not been honored. Why? Because there has been neither the firm determination to honor these documents nor the moral conviction that something is being done on behalf of mankind. This is the fundamental issue. This is why I have said that the signing of this contract must entail those two conditios: faith and determination.

[Question] Nicaragua yesterday promised to sign the document without conditions or modifications, but then it announced that the United States would have to sign an additional agreement to prevent a U.S. intervention in Central America. Would you accept the document in its entirety, the way it stands right now, wihout further conditions?

[Duarte] I have said that I am willing to sign the 21 points of the document the way they have been presented to the world, in the understanding that we are doing this in good faith and with political determination. Notice, however, that Nicaragua is already setting conditions. That has other implications that cannot be ignored. What if we were to say that Cuba must also sign and that it must fulfill the same postulates that Nicaragua is allegedly demanding from the United States? What if we tell Libya to stop sending weapons to Central America? What if we tell Russia? As you see, everything is based on the goodwill and good faith that we humans must show when faced with problems. It is not easy. We are in an agitated world, a world engaged in confrontation, a world that has lost all human values. Everything we are trying to replace with documents is this way simply because we human beings have lost our morals, our values, and our sense of responsibility toward society.

[Question] There has been talk here that (?you will sign) the 21-point document, but I do not think that the revised document has 21 points. The 21 points were part of a draft document that has been revised [words indistinct] ... [Duarte interrupts]

[Duarte] No, I think it must be understood ... [reporter interrupts]

[Question] [Words indistinct] revised.

[Duarte] ... that the concepts presented entail 21 points. Another document was subsequently released, which expands on the 21 points. The 21 points are the essence of the (?program).

I think we are clear about the fact that we are signing that which is fundamental. The process, the methods agreed on, are also included in the 21 points.

[Question] Mr President, this is on the same subject: For those journalists who, like me, have been covering the Contadora Group's negotiations, your questions about the peace document have already been answered by the Contadora foreign ministers, because that document contains solutions to your questions. Do you not think that your assertion that the signing of the document will not resolve anthing [words indistinct] might be construed as a dilatory tactic and that it might discredit the Contadora Group's efforts?

[Duarte] No, no, no. On the contrary, what I am doing is to help confirm that the Contadora Document is a good instrument for achieving peace in Central America. I am being positive. I am presenting the issue in a positive way because I am saying that I am willing to demonstrate my determination and make an effort to fulfill the document's various aspects so that it can succeed. But I am also being realistic, and I must find the way to ensure that the signing of this docuemnt will succeed. So this is my way of presenting the issue. Moreover, we ourselves, through our foreign minister, suggested 15 October as the deadline for all of us to present our responses. This was done in order to speed up the process and keep it from taking more and more time unnecessarily. So we are making a contribution.

I beg you not to view my statement today in a negative way; view it positively. I think it is vital that, in accepting this peace process, all of us who are aware of reality watch over all those things that might create problems in order to resolve them and find solutions to them. This must be done while treading a path that strengthens the peace process so Central America can truly achieve what we all want, tranquillity (?and peace). In this manner, democracy will be at the bottom of every action guaranteeing the rights of men, and dictatorship, whether blatant or veiled, will not be used to oppress the peoples.

[Question] Mr President, I have two questions. First, during your presidential campaign and shortly after taking office, you promised two things: One was to eliminate the death squads and the other was to guarantee respect for human rights. But according to various reports released by certain international human rights organizations, the death squads have not disappeared and remain active in El Salvador. They also report that of late, in the last 3 months, 98 air bombings have been carried out against civilian areas like Chalatenango, Morazan, Cuscatlan, La Union, San Vicente, and Cabanas, where civilians have been affected.

My other question is: Who is winning the war in El Salvador?

[Duarte] One can tell that the information you receive is completely distorted: 98 bombings against civilian areas. That is tremendous. There has been only one case, in Calatenango, in a place called Miramundo, where the Air Force dropped bombs which fell on a house around which guerrilla vehicles and trenches had been concentrated. Bombs also fell on two small huts nearby, killing a woman and a child in one of them. There were no casualties in the other hut. I investigated this personally and tried to help solve this problem. This is the truth. I am sure that the Armed Forces are fulfilling their duty. When we make mistakes, we will be honest and frank and will say: We have made a mistake; we have done something wrong; we think this mistake should not have been made. The place where guerrillas were carrying out their actions was located and the place was bombed, but from a plane one cannot see what is being bombed and little huts were bombed too.

Now, in order to avoid similar mistakes in future, both the High Command and I myself have approved a plan to contol such action by requiring the existence of certain conditions before the Air Force can be deployed.

Now, I want to make this clear: This information about the 98 bombings and other such things are part of the Marxist strategy to keep the Air Force from serving as a support body for the Army. We will not tolerate this. The Air Force is a part of the Armed Forces, and they will fulfill their duty whenever they have to. I see no reason for hiding the actions that the Armed Forces must carry out. What I must do is prevent errors, inappropriate actions, or disobediences. That is my responsibility as general commander of the Armed Forces and that of the Armed Forces High Command. One of the members of the High Command is with me in this room, and he is a witness to all the efforts we are making to control this kind of situation. I can assure you that the Armed Forces are fulfilling their duty. Whenever they make a mistake, they present me with a report. If I am not pleased with it, I request it again until I am perfectly satisfied with the report, and only then do I take corrective action. I think this is clear; there should be no doubts, and I repeat: The figures you have been given are wrong.

[Question] What about the other question, about who is losing the war?

[Duarte] I think the war is being lost by those who believe in violence, and that those of us who believe in peace and democracy are winning. Anyone else?

[Question] I would like to hear your opinion about the Nicaraguan elections in November. Another short question, if you will allow me: Is it true that a large segment of the Salvadoran press does not endorse your government plans for achieving democracy in El Salvador?

[Duarte] Concerning the Nicaraguan elections, I think it would be inappropriate for me to comment on something that has not yet taken place. However, there is no doubt that my country, El Salvador, Central America in general, and the entire world expect truly honest, pure, democratic, and just elections in Nicaragua. If that is not the case, the entire world will witness it, you yourselves will comment on it, and the world will realize that unless things are done the way they should be, the election will simply constitute a repetition of all those elections held under Somoza, when it was announced to the world that 98 percent of the people had voted the way the dictatorship wanted. That cannot be democracy. Neither can there be democracy where it is announced that although elections will be held, power will not be at stake, because those elections are not democratic either. So, seeing things this way, all I can tell you is: May God allow the Nicaraguan people the right to choose their leaders freely. The other question?

[Question indistinct]

[Duarte] Oh, about the press. In a democracy some people agree, others do not. That, in fact, is what democracy is about. In my country the administration has no problem respecting the stance of each Salvadoran. There are several journalists here, and they are very familiar with our line of conduct and my own personal behavior toward the press. I respect the press, and there is absolute press freedom in El Salvador. So much so that in November I will address the Inter-American Press Association at their own invitation, precisely because they choose from among those countries which, despite great difficulties, maintain and respect press freedom. Notice that we are under a state of siege, but even so there is absolute press freedom.

SALVADORAN PRESIDENT RETURNS TO COUNTRY

PA231650 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1619 GMT 23 Sep 84

[Text] Panama City, 23 Sep (ACAN-EFE) -- The Panamanian Air Force plane carrying Salvadoran President Jose Napoleon Duarte, who ended his first official visit to this country today, left for El Salvador at 1030 (1530 GMT).

Duarte arrived here on 20 September from Colombia, where he spent 2 days after leaving Venezuela, where he visited on 17 and 18 September.

Duarte met with his Panamanian counterpart Jorge Illueca, with whom he reviewed the Contadora Document.

The two presidents signed a joint declaration expressing support for Central American regional organizations and the peace proposals for the area drafted by the Contadora Group. However, in addition to the signing of the document, Duarte called for legal control mechanisms so that the document won't remain merely "rhetoric or dead words."

WRITERS' VIEWS DIFFER ON SCHOOL OF AMERICAS

Ballesteros Opposes Closing

PA212113 Panama City YA in Spanish 21 Sep 84 p 14

["Public Gathering" column by Donatilo Ballesteros: "Dignity and the School of the Americas"]

[Text] Under the false pretext of dignity and love for our sovereignty which they have never defended, some groups that have never known hunger are in favor of eliminating the School of the Americas because, according to them, this action would show the dignity of the Panamanian people. I do not believe that there is anyone in Panama who is more patriotic than I am. I can say this with the conviction that I do more for our homeland with my actions and from my position than many who express their patriotism, when it is convenient for bureaucratic positions.... Therefore, I feel that we cannot demand dignity from a hungry person... We should elevate man's dignity by allowing him to ensure the daily bread for himself and his family.

These are the same people who hate the gringo but love the dollar.... For them, dignity is someone else's responsibility; they demand dignity from others because they would never give up their privileges and their positions for the benefit of those who will be without jobs when the School of the Americas closes.... The military training will not stop, because another institute or academy will be created in another country. The only difference will be that our soldiers will have to travel abroad to receive training, they will spend our money in another country, and Panama will not benefit from this. On the contrary, it will lose in every respect.

Where is the wrongly interpreted patriotism of those who have secured a house, education for themselves and their children, food, and clothing? Why don't they fight against militarism, instead of opposing the operation of this school? This is a contradiction that reflects a high degree of demagoguery.... While they say that the school should not be allowed to continue operating because of dignity, they fraternize with members of the military.... They receive all kinds of privileges, support, promotions, protection, and encouragement from the military, and many of them live on what our military institution produces and provides.... So, where do they stand?

It is true that we must erradicate colonialism and that it is the duty of all Panamanians to struggle so that our country can be viewed at the international level as a nation with its own personality, a mature nation that is responsible for its own actions. However, our foreign policy has tried to align our country with certain tendencies that our people do not share, tendencies that they firmly reject but which represent the ideological position of some officials who are currently occupying positions in our national bureaucracy.

Nothing prevents the School of the Americas from continuing to operate under Panamanian management because we have qualified personnel and we could bring in experts to improve the quality of the training if this is necessary. We are talking about an academy that already exists, is operating, and whose destruction will be of no benefit for the country. We cannot deprive a man of his daily bread and then tell him that we must do so because the dignity of our homeland demands this...while the person who refers to this dignity does not know what it is, does not feel it...and furthermore, has a sure job.

Reyes Supports Closing

PA230043 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 22 Sep 84 p 2 D

[Article by Nelva Reyes: "The Assassins' University Cannot Remain in Panama"]

[Text] The School of Americas is located in Fort Gulick, Canal Zone. It was installed "to train Latin American personnel chosen to acquire the highest levels of professionalism, increase the capacity for maintaining internal security, and provide a greater military contribution to national development." The School of the Americas is the most center of counterinsurgency operations in Latin America, and the only one that offers training to Latin American personnel.

Until September 1975, the School of the Americas had graduated 33,147 military men from 19 Latin American countries. Thus, the military coups staged in the late sixties and early seventies in Peru, Bolivia, Chile, Argentina, and Panama were staged by militarymen trained either in the United States or in the School of the Americas.

It is in this school that military men currently train to kill Salvadoran, Nicaraguan, Guatemalen, Chilean, Uruguayan, and other brothers.

One of the crumbs obtained from the pro-Yankee Torrijos-Carter Treaties (during the undemocratic discussion of these treaties this was the battle horse of those who said "yes" to the treaties) is the "disappearance" of the School of the Americas in October 1984. According to paragraph "D" of Annex "A" of the treaty, the School of Americas "will be closed" 5 years after the implementation of the treaty, on 1 October 1984, "unless the two governments decide otherwise.

By presenting Executive Resolution No 83 of 30 July 1984, which states that the School of the Americas is transferred to the National Defense Forces, Dr. Illueca is merely masking the Pentagon's presence in that school. We ask: Must the national government continue to train military men in order to better serve its masters in the north? Why are not the resources that Panama will have to dedicate to maintain that school used to guarantee work for thousands of unemployed people, including many professionals who have been unable to find jobs?

We wish to appeal to the university students, promoters of several anti-imperialist struggles, so that together we can demand from Rector Dr Ceferino Sanchez that he request the School of the Americas facilities be used for the university, either by the Regional University Center of Colon or as a scientific research center.

We feel that it is our responsibility as Panamanians to demand that soldiers no longer train here to slaughter fraternal peoples, as when graduates of that institution used isthmians as cannon fodder on 9 January 20 years ago.

GOVERNMENT TO GRANT VISAS TO TRANSIENT CUBANS

PA201356 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 0000 GMT 20 Sep 84

[Text] Raul Roger, general director of immigration and naturalization of the Defense Forces, announced today that he had spoken with his Cuban counterpart over a period of several days to make arrangements for Cubans in transit to the United States and other countries to enter Panama. Roger described the talks as positive and stressed our country's humanitarian interest in collaborating with Cuba on the reunification of families. He explained that rigorous measures will be applied in choosing those who will be granted visas.

Roger said that these talks were promoted to put an end to rumors and confusion on the issue and with the idea of providing an answer for U.S. authorities, who are concerned about the possibility of uncontrolled immigration to that country.

Meanwhile, General Justo Hernandez, the Cuban immigration director, said that his country is pleased with Panama's cooperation and that Cuba has always maintained an open emigration policy, stressing that at this time many Cubans travel to the United States to visit relatives and vice versa. Hernandez did not state the number of Cubans who have requested Panamian visas, but confirmed that his visit to the country is to arrange entry of Cubans into Panama.

300 Cubans to Arrive

PA212234 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 1730 GMT 21 Sep 84

[Text] The final steps that will allow 300 Cubans to enter Panama, where they will await the necessary paperwork for their entry into Miami, were completed today. The final steps for the Cubans' arrival in Panama were made in Panama City by Justo Hernandez, the director of Cuba's General Directorate for Immigration and Naturalization, and his Panamian counterpart, Raul Roger.

Hernandez said that by acting as a mediator to allow the Cuban emigrants to reach Miami and rejoin their families, Panama is contributing to reuniting families.

BRIEFS

COOPERATION AGREEMENT WITH BELIZE -- Panamanian Ambassador to Belize Ana Mora de Wakeland and Belizean Foreign Affairs Minister Vernon H. Courtenay have signed a technical-scientific agreement. Among other things, it will promote research and the exchange of techniques and scientists. [Summary] [Panama City LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 18 Sep 84 p 13 PA]

VISITING PRC JOURNALISTS -- Government Minister Rodolfo Chiari de Leon has received a delegation of PRC journalists headed by Lu Ju, director of Beijing Radio's International Department. Other members of the delegation are Gu Jianxiang and Wang Ping. [Summary] [Panama City YA in Spanish 15 Sep 84 p 1 PA]

IRHE-YUGOSLAV CONTRACT -- This morning Jose I. Blandon, director general of the Institute of Hydraulic Resources and Electrification, IRHE, and Jan Stanovic, representative of the Yugoslav firm Energoproject, signed a contract for $17,037,246 for the supply and installation of 1,400 km of distribution lines that are a part of a 5-year rural electrification plan. [Summary] [Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 0000 GMT 18 Sep 84 PA]

EL SALVADOR

DUARTE DISCUSSES CONTADORA DOCUMENT, ECONOMY

PA242253 San Salvador Domestic Service in Spanish 1735 GMT 24 Sep 84

[President Jose Napoleon Duarte press conference from the Presidential Palace in San Salvador -- live]

[Excerpts] [Moderator] Radio El Salvador reporter Carlos Benjamin Alvarenga.

[Alvarenga] During you trip to Venezuela, Colombia, and Panama, you ratified internationally the truth of the Salvadoran democratic process, the truth of our people, and that the Contadora Group efforts are feasible. Do you believe that the time is right in Central America to promote this effort and shortly make it a reality?

[Duarte] I believe that the hopes, wishes, and dreams of peace that the Central American peoples have are worthy of better luck and this is why I am not satisfied merely with working to achieve this peace but I want to achieve it at the lowest possible cost. However, there are always obstacles, differences which have to be solved, and solutions which must be sought. I believe that the five Central American countries have already stated that they are willing to support the Contadora Document. It remains to be seen if these are sincere feelings or if it is just a signature.

In signing we need two things: First, the signing of such a document must be based on goodwill. It is the same as signing a contract or when you get married; you have to sign in good faith. This is what this relation is all about; you have to honor it in good faith. Second, once these countries have signed the document they must also show a political determination to honor it. Without these two ingredients a document such as this one would not be workable.

While in Panama I made statements regarding this matter. I focused on some of the problems we must work on. I wish to say that I am optimistic and I am speaking to you with optimism, not with pessimism. However, what would happen if once the document were signed by the five Central American countries, the Contadora Group countries, the European countries, everyone was happy, and everyone went home? What would happen if once the document were signed the Contadora Group countries said: Well, our work is done, good night and goodbye? That would be dangerous. What would happen if the European countries who say they support Contadora and who are aware of the socioeconomic problems in Central America and know that we need help said: Well, we got them to sign the contract and it is now up to them to work things out? That would be dangerous. It would also be very dangerous if the interests of the signing nations were suddenly violated, if the treaty were violated. What would happen if the Cuba, Libya, and USSR problem continued? They have not signed nor will they sign a treaty. What would happen if they continued to pressure and use Nicaragua as an instrument to continue with the supply of weapons, ammunition, and materiel, and the training of the Salvadoran guerrillas? Such actions would affect the entire situation.

I believe that this leads us to control and verification and to the need for permanent surveillance and protection for this process to be valid. This is why I say that good faith and political determination are the two main ingredients for this control and verification to be possible and to avoid the danger of destabilization.

I think that our support for the Contadora Group is good. I feel that the U.S. decision to support the Contadora Group and its efforts through Mr Harry Shlaudeman, to seek support for the Contadora Group were very good. It is good that the EEC countries will be coming to San Jose, Costa Rica, on 26 September to support the Contadora Group and it is also good that the give Central American countries have made statements regarding this matter. Therefore, we must view this with optimism and hope that no negative factors will arise to hinder the situation.

[Moderator] I now invite Mrs (Marina Recinos Martinez de Campos), LA PRENSA GRAFICA reporter, to address the president.

[Campos] Mr President: I have listened, with some concern, to your views regarding the signing of the Contadora Document and the support for the Contadora Document, as well as your views on the USSR, Libya, and Nicaragua. Do you plan to visit Nicaragua in the future to speak to them in regard to this support? Also, what can you tell us regarding the economic aid we receive from Venezuela in fuel; how much would this aid amount to, and what is our situation regarding our fuel reserves?

[Duarte] Regarding your first question I wish to state that I have no plans to visit Nicaragua because I am struggling, first of all, to create the conditions in the democratic countries and to seek support in the quest for our democracy. I cannot say that the same is happening in Nicaragua, therefore, under these circumstances, a trip to Nicaragua would have no purpose. This does not mean that we do not have diplomatic relations with Nicaragua. Our diplomatic corps meets with them. The Contadora Group itself is a forum in which we discuss and debate the relations between Nicaragua and El Salvador. The International Court of Justice in the Hague is another such forum to discuss the problems between Nicaragua and El Salvador as are the OAS and the United Nations. Therefore, we already have enough forums to debate the various subjects and I will only travel to those places where my presence is indispensable in achieving some objectives and getting support within the great international strategy that we were discussing a few minutes ago. Therefore, I can tell you that at this moment I have no plans to visit Nicaragua.

There were rumors that because of the Venezuelan and Mexican economic crisis there would be a decrease in the support that these countries have been giving to all Central America. I was concerned about this and in Venezuela I mentioned it. Our foreign minister and president of the Central Reserve Bank visited Mexico to discuss this matter. We are happy because these two countries have not changed their policy. We continue under the San Jose Accord and the two countries are supplying us with oil as in the past. Therefore, we can rest assured in this regard.

According to the shipment plans, we receive a shipment every 15 days, every 20 days, or once a month, according to the capacity of the ship and our reserves. We therefore, have no problems with our reserves. We have enough for approximately 30 days and this allows for normal operations.

Regarding funds, our economy and planning ministers attended a meeting and I can tell you that the two countries, Venezuela and Colombia, have been very good to us. The two ministers could not be here with us today because they left this morning for Washington to attend the four meetings with the IMF, IDB, and the World Bank. The four members of our economic group must attend these meetings and, therefore, our planning, economy, and treasury ministers, and the president of the Central Reserve Bank, who have this information cannot be here with us today.

[Moderator] Francisco Bustela Flores of News in Action [Accion en la Noticia].

[Flores] Mr President: Despite your positive achievements during this trip only days after you were sworn in, how do you see our 1985 budget? I hope before this press conference ends you will allow me a second question that does not involve your trip.

[Duarte] We have to differentiate between economic aid and the fiscal budget. These are two totally different things. We are putting forth all our efforts to strengthen the country's economy; to plan the actions in such a way that the country will have a solid financial and economic base that will ensure next year's growth. We believe that all we have done will allow a growth of 2 or 3 percent and that next year we will continue with this economic growth rate.

Aside from this, and without having any repercussions on the economic aid because the international aid has nothing to do with the national budget which is strictly based on taxes and revenue received by the state, I can say that we are working with a budget that is based on the process of integration of the country's fiscal situation. The cost of war, destruction of the country, and our defense needs cannot be forgotten and this is why our budget will reflect this. The budget will include the monies that the country has for its own defense and defense is the first priority in the nation's budget. It is vital for the establishment of peace that the country achieve its security and its process of reconstruction of all that has been destroyed in the country.

Other aspects that help our budget are the changes in what we call expert services which is a payment to the international institutions prior to an international disbursement. The change consists in receiving the international funds first; once the work is completed we complement it with national funds. This will give us 1 or 2 years grace to use our national funds. This will allow us the use of some $200 million for programs that we have not been able to complete because we did not have funds. This measure will benefit all the programs in the budget.

The national budget is in the range of 10.4 billion colones and at this moment it is being drafted to be presented, as required by the law, in late Sepbember, or to be more exact on Sunday. However, I believe we will be presenting it on Friday because the last day of the month falls on a weekend and, therefore, the next working day would be the deadline for its presentation. It will be presented to the Legislative Assembly and the discussion period will begin. This is when the Legislative Assembly and the Provisional Executive meet to discuss and agree on it. A new ruling was included in the Constitution. In the past the Provisional Executive presented the new budget only days before the new fiscal year began. Today the budget must be presented earlier to enable the discussion of each aspect of the budget before a final budget is decided on. It will be up to the Legislative Assembly to study the budget and decide.

[Moderator] Mr President, newsmen Carlos Roger Gaitan.

[Gaitan] Mr President: During your political campaign and after you came to power, you said that you are seeking peace. Could you clearly point out what obstacles prevent you from talking with the guerrillas and which of those obstacles are placed by the guerrillas and which by the ultrarightists?

[Duarte] I think that you have heard the statements made by Mr D'Aubuisson, who is opposed to dialogue and to any solution that would lead to peace. The government is clearly committed to doing everything necessary to achieve peace.

However, dialogue requires two sides, not one. Dialogue means that both sectors must make an effort to create the conditions that will establish a climate of confidence and the belief that a dialogue can have positive results.

A few minutes ago, we were talking about the phenomenon of the Contadora Group and we spoke of goodwill and political commitment. It is not possible to find a path to peace if one of the parties does not want peace. We are trying to create the objective and subjective conditions [4-second break in transmission] but in no way can these solutions lead to the relinquishing or yielding of power. It should be made clear that I will never negotiate the exercise of power with anyone, for a single reason: power belongs to the people. I am simply a custodian of that power. Therefore my work must be to exercise the people's power in such a way that it provides guarantees for all. My effort must be directed toward creating the conditions that will allow all of the country's citizens to feel more secure, and to have greater participation, greater opportunities for participating and for living and coexisting with each other. I must provide the political and moral opportunities for all Salvadorans to be able to achieve peaceful coexistence. That is the duty of the state. That is duty of the government. That is what all of us, all the authorities must do.

That is why I am so firm with those who violate the law, with the corrupt and with those who want to abuse their authority, those who still believe that we are back in the times when the mere fact of having a little authority gave one the right to humilate people, to be arrogant, to mistreat people, and even to commit murder. This is one of the things that I am obliged to combat.

However, to achieve dialogue, to achieve peace, all Salvadorans must give up hatred and all must work against those people who may not yet have understood that tolerance and understanding are the paths to peace.

There are people who think that they should continue to hate; that they can bring this war to an end by killing and murdering and imposing their will. That is wrong. Peace cannot be achieved in that way. This also applies to those extreme rightist sectors that have still not realized that the only solution available to this country is to take the path of peace through a sense of responsibility, harmony, tolerance, and social discipline. It also applies to the extreme leftists who refuse to understand that the Salvadoran people do not want violence, war or death. Those gentlemen have tried to impose the will of a minority by means of violence. If they believe that the Salvadoran people will support them in this, they are mistaken, because our country's history clearly indicates that our people have never been willing to take the path of violence. One example is enough to explain this. While in some of the world's countries independence was achieved through battles and confrontations, that was not the case in El Salvador. In El Salvador, a humble priest, instead of taking up arms and instead of killing, rang the bell of freedom and called the people to freedom.

That is the example that we Salvadorans want to follow. We want all Salvadorans to ring the bells of freedom, the bells of justice, but never the bells of death and destruction. It is with this fervor, with this spirit, with these ideas that I am struggling to bring peace to our country. This being the case, the extreme leftists, the subversives, the sectors that have been with the guerrillas must understand the people's will, a will that was manifested through the electoral process.

[Unidentified reporter] [words indistinct] at the military level, Mr President. You said yesterday, on your return from Venezuela, Colombia and Panama, that you support the Contadora Group. One of the Contadora Group's points concerns the withdrawal of advisers: the U.S. advisers, as well as the Cuban advisers from Nicaragua.

Mr President: Would you, and perhaps General Flores care to comment on this?

[Duarte] Of course, with pleasure. I have no objections. We have said that we will sign the document with the corresponding prcedures. This means that, if to achieve peace we have to give up the advisory services of our 55 advisers, Nicaragua will have to send away the 8,000 Cubans that are in its Army. Let us see whether this is carried out. I think that this is clearly defined.

[Moderator] Mr President, Mr Michael Bruce of UPI.

[Bruce] Mr President, taking into account your pledge to comply with the Contadora Group's plan, what preliminary talks have been held by your government and that of the United States with regard to the withdrawal of the U.S. military advisers?

[Duarte] You ask if we have had preliminary talks with the United States? I think that a sovereign country does not need to talk with anyone about the line of conduct to be followed by that country. When we enter into an international treaty, we honor it.

[Moderator] Mr President, journalist Rene Contreras of ANSA agency.

[Contreras] Mr President, according to the statement you just made, there is no immediate possibility of a dialogue between the government and the leftist sectors. That is the first question. The second question concerns the supply of fuel. All Salvadorans are happy to know that fuel will be available, but there is still the question as to whether or not there will be an increase in the price of gasoline, as has been widely rumored in El Salvador, despite the fact that the price of gasoline was not reduced when the price of oil was reduced on the international market. Another question concerns devaluation. On one occasion, you mentioned pressure from certain sectors for the currency to be devalued.

[Duarte] On your first question, I must say that what I have just said regarding the process leads one to reflect on the meaning of the national dialogue in which all our actions are designed to bring about peace in the country. That is why I have made a proposal and the first debate on this has already taken place in Portugal, with two Salvadoran delegates in attendance. They have outlined what we believe and what we would like to have done. A new debate will be held in Los Angeles and we will also send an important political personage, accompanied by the representatives. Obviously, they will explain our viewpoints to the world. Mr. Ungo has said that he will not go to this debate; because he wants to debate with me. I believe that everyone will understand that the president of the Republic cannot agree to this. This is simply an excuse, either for him to overestimate his importance by saying that he is important enough to debate with the president of the Republic, or simply for him to get out of it, because he is afraid to debate publicly on the subject. We will participate. We will be present before half of the world, to present our viewpoints. If Mr. Ungo doesn't go, that is his problem. However, this would show that they are playing with tactics, but are not really seeking the mechanisms to achieve peace. They are seeking to obtain political benefits, not to achieve peace.

The following question, regarding the price of gasoline and the matter of supply. I think that none of us are unaware of the impact of the use of oil in the country. Only to give you a few figures, which are not correct, not exact, pardon me, but show the magnitude of the problem: Of the $500 or $600 million that could result in income from coffee, we are spending $350 million for oil.

This shows the magnitude, the seriousness for us to continue using oil indefinitely, and the impact that this is causing on the country's economy.

If we could replace this oil, we could acquire raw materials, medicine, and food. Therefore the use of oil, although a necessity, has a priority level lower than that of food and medicine. For this reason you will see that the state manages things among these priorities. If we have money or if we had an excess of it, we would not have the problem of playing the game of the oil prices. However, what we have is a really damaging and dangerous situation and we have to maintain a low level of oil consumption. We also have to replace oil with another type of fuel. For example, to gain experience, we are trying to purchase some vehicles from Brazil that run on alcohol. There are 1 million vehicles in Brazil that use alcohol, or gasohol for fuel. If we could replace oil, we could produce the cane, make our fuel, and [words indistinct]. This would be very good.

Another dangerous error that is common is to believe that gasoline is expensive, and diesel is cheap, that gasoline vehicles should be changed for diesel vehicles. This also is false. Diesel is not cheaper, it costs the same as gasoline because it all comes in a mixture, and the refinery extracts a little alcohol, a little gasoline, a little diesel, and a little of the other products. Therefore, the price of diesel would be the same price as the other products, but the state made the decision to subsidize the vehicles by selling diesel at lower prices. It even further subsidizes public transportation, since by giving them an additional sum it made it possible to reduce the price of diesel. The state subsidizes industry, giving it additional prices. All of this is a burden on the state, and on the nation. It is also a burden on the gasoline prices.

Now, regarding the game of the price structure, these factors have made it possible to find out how we should manage the issue so that it will not cause us uncontrollable damage at these prices and this level of consumption. This is what I can explain to you on the process of the gasoline and petroleum price structure.

You asked, also, if there may be an increase in the gasoline prices. What there can be is a transfer in the price structure, of a part of the value, of the cost of oil to the parallel market. I think that this would be of some 10 to 15 percent, no more. The state will try to maintain 80, 90, or 95 percent of the official prices. This is all I can tell you. Now, we have a third problem and it could be that the countries that supply us could request an advance payment. So far, we have been paying them when the shipment arrives, and with a 30-day deadline. If they ask us for advance payments, this could also result in some effect on the price.

[Question indistinct]

[Duarte] I try not to avoid any question, I answer all of them to the best of my knowledge; about the devaluation of the currency. There is no doubt that in responce to the panorama that I have presented there is a structural pressure toward a currency devaluation. However, I think this would be damaging, if a mechanism is not sought to lessen the impact of a sudden devaluation which could be generated. If you believe that you understood this very well and the Salvadoran people understood it very well, if you studied the proposal made during my campaign when the topic of the country's economic structure was discussed, then you know that I proposed a formula, a theory which I called the chiseling of the economy and the economic slide.

This idea, is sui generis because it allows us to slide as we suffer the effects, with the hope that at some moment we will recover and return to our original condition.

The danger of a sudden devaluation rises once it is done, and there is no other way out except to suffer the consequences. However, if you pass up some products on the parallel market and weaken the process, you can turn back at some time when conditions are right. I will give you a classical example of this: Two changes have already been made in El Salvador. One of them occurred late this year [as heard] when a large number of products were removed from the list. It was a lot stricter when the import of a large quantity of products was suspended and later returned because there were some spaces that could be managed.

Therefore, I want to tell you that I disagree with a sudden devaluation. However, we cannot deny that the country's situation is delicate, that with an income of some $1.2 billion, and expenses that surpass $2.5 billion, this inequality has to somehow be managed. If we do not manage the situation intelligently, we could lose control of the economy, the salaries, the cost of living, all of these things. That is why some say that the country does not have a defined economic policy. We do. If it is my economic policy, it is the chiseling and the process of permanent monetary adjustments in order to manage the situation coarefully.

The other change would be to simply let the country drift and we will not allow this. We are not allowing it. Therefore, this is what we propose. We also propose that the determining factor in this phenomenon is international economic aid and this is why I am traveling all over the world, to be able to have a base that will allow us an economic policy that willsustain the situation. Furthermore, we are forced to begin the country's process of national production. Unfortunately, we took over the government when the crops had been planted already and we have no other way out but to wait until the next crop is planted. Meanwhile we have to manage the process with care, with caution, and this is our policy. I think that it is clear that for us a sudden devaluation is not part of our scheme, our economic concept.

[Moderator] Eduardo Vasquez, Please.

[Vasquez] How does your government interpret the reiterated statements of Nicaraguan Commander Daniel Ortega in that they are making every effort to obtain sophisticated war materiel, such as those that created the crisis with Cuba in 1962? What has the Armed Forces done to humanize the conflict in your country?

[Duarte] Regarding the first question, it appears obvious that it shows concern over the attitude of Nicaragua respecting the arms buildup, and that there are serious doubts whether Nicaragua will comply with the Contadora Group. They are making a dangerous proposal, because they are posing the following thesis: that there are two blocs in Central America, the supposed socialist bloc existing there, and then the rest of the countries, which are thrown into a single bag. Now, in order to establish an arms balance, which must be between the two blocs, the socialist bloc must have as many weapons as the four other countries put together. This means that they must arm themselves five times more than any other country in the area. And that is serious, from the viewpoint of the security of any nation. Thus, the concern you have evidenced is shared by not only all Central Americans, but by all peoples of the world.

That is why the Contadora Document is clear about the need to stop the arms buildup. That is why it poses the need to establish levels of advice, arms buildup, and committees. That is why the construction of the airstrip and the arrival of the MIG's there are so dangerous at this moment.

This is all part of the problem which mister Ortega declared a few days ago.

El Salvador has declared in the Contadora Document that we establish in the first place a multilateral concept. In other words, we do not accept bilateral, but multilateral solutions. In the second place, we visualize a pluralistic situation, in which we all are to be treated as equal. And in the third place, a global situation; not one in which point No 18 is applicable but not No 12. If we accept 21 points, it has to be 21 points. In conclusion, it must be a simultaneous situation. This means that all the military advisers must leave the area but not as it was apparently said that the U.S. should leave and that in Nicaragua [passage indistinct]. The above are our four conditions, which we have expressed all along to the Contadora Group.

[Reporter Carlos Beltran of YSX] A U.S. news agency published a statement you made to PLAYBOY magazine, saying that the North Americans were directing the war. Do you make those statements?

[Duarte] I was interviewed by PLAYBOY recently and the person who interviewed me; maybe he is here, no he is not, asked me all sorts of questions. However, not everything that one says is published. I have not read the magazine, some have said that the issue has not been published. I was told it was the October issue and that it wouldn't be on the stands until sometime next month. But a gigantic expectation has been built around something that I apparently did not say. But someone that read the draft said that the title and the article are not the same. There must be something, however, I have not read this.

What I do wish to say is that I have enough political experience and maturity and I believe it would be silly for a president to think that he cannot rule his country. I wish to be clear and honest about this; if I accepted the office of president it was to be the president and not to be someone's puppet. I am President of the Republic and commander in Chief of the Army. In the article they say, or it was interpreted, that the country's Army is ruled by the United States. That is not true. The High Command is responsible for the leadership of the Armed Forces and the high command is formed by the president of the Republic, defense minister, and the two defense under secretaries, and by the chief of general staff. Those five people are the ones who are responsible for the leadership of the Armed Forces. Therefore, we can never say that foreign forces are involved in our army's command.

However, this does not mean that we do not listen. We listen to the advice of all those who may wish to give us advice. I learn from you with every press conference. A question such as the one made by (Baxter Baker) allows me to think in public and this is good for me in making decisions regarding the nation's problems. When I am asked questions like the one about the Armed Forces and the killings here and there, I learn from them. If the information is the truth, sensible, and not exaggerated it helps me to look into the problem and try to solve and correct it. It helps me when I meet with the High Command and make decisions as we did in the Air Force and public security cases. You were witness to the fact that we drafted a document and created commissions. I don't know what PLAYBOY is going to say but I will read it while smiling. If they write what I have heard, then they are wrong.

[Moderator] Alexander Bennet of ABC News.

[Bennett in English] President Duarte: In light of the declaration given in Nicaragua this past week by Daniel Ortega, and in light of much of the information that we as journalists have seen over the past few months covering the Contadora Group process, many of the government officials that we have spoken with say that Nicaragua is the main obstacle to that process. How would you characterize the behavior of Nicaragua toward the Contadora Group process and what do you think of their position on the draft treaty?

[Duarte in English] A moment ago in Spanish I said that in my opinion, in order to make the Contadora Group succeed, the five governments need to in the first place sign the document in good faith. Second, they must have the political will to comply with the requirements of the clauses of the Contadora document. We have had enormous discussions. There is skepticism concerning the Nicaraguan position. They have created all kinds of obstacles not to accept certain points of the Contadora Group process, specifically the internal things, the democratic things, the support for democracy, the possibilities for election, and also the problems of armaments. Therefore, the declaration of Sergio Ramirez saying that they will be ready to sign the document might be interpreted as part of the world pressure so that they have no choice but to sign. I hope that they will come in good faith because otherwise it would only be an attitude of, how can we say this [last five words in Spanish] a dressing. I don't know [words indistinct] but it is enough to say that we are concerned, we are worried and we believe that we will be happy if we all sign together and that we all have good faith and goodwill to make the Contadora Document succeed.

The second preoccupation we have is what will happen if after signing the Contadora Document the four Contadora countries say well, this is the end, goodbye, then the United States says happy landing and goodbye, and the European countries say well, this is what we wanted, goodbye, and they all leave Central America alone. That is also a preoccupation. We would like to have the Contadora Group as a scheme of the process in which all five countries will work together with the help of the Europeans and support for the peaceful solution for Central America.

[Bennet in English] Why are you skeptical about the Nicaraguans?

[Duarte in English] Because they are contradictory. They make one declaration in one direction and then they make a declaration in a different direction. One day Sergio Ramirez declares that he is going to sign it and at the same time Daniel Ortega says that they are gradually increasing their armament. This is against the concept of the Contadora Group. So you see, two declarations in two different directions.

GUATEMALA

DIPLOMATIC TIES REESTABLISHED WITH SPAIN

LD230805 Madrid Domestic Service in Spanish 2200 GMT 22 Sep 84

[Juan Luis Diaz Prat report from Guatemala]

[Excerpts] Under the chairmanship of Belisario Betancur, the foreign ministers of Spain and Guatemala signed a joint communique announcing the resumption of diplomatic relations effective today in a salon in Bogota's presidential palace, Narino Palace. In addition to Betancur, Foreign Ministers Fernando Moran and Fernando Andrade were joined by the secretary general of the Organization of American States, the foreign ministers of Colombia and Venezuela and ambassadors from several Latin American countries.

The Spanish Minister Fernando Moran spoke on the significance of the ceremony.

[Begin Moran recording] Altogether it represents a triumph of goodwill, of reason, which ought to rule over relations between peoples and which governments ought to interpret by means of international acts. A worthy, just and honorable solution has been secured for a lamentable situation such as the lack of diplomiatc relations between two nations, so united in history. Neither side yielded in its interests nor feels that its honor is undermined. Both win as justice prevails. [end recording]

For his part Minister Fernando Andrade expressed the same pleasure of the people and government of Guatemala over the resumption of diplomatic relations with Spain.

[Begin Andrade recording] This day of rejoicing throws a cloak of oblivion over the circumstances and unfortunate factors which had led to deeds creating an interruption in the relations between Spain and Guatemala for some years. With jubilation and with satisfaction, we Guatemalans will be able to refer ourselves to the agreement reached by both countries that puts an end to a situation sincerely deplored by our peoples. Beginning today, our nations can view each other from a path of harmony given new life with fraternity and mutual cooperation thanks to an honest and honorable understanding, just and impartial [words indistinct] achieved with scrupulous zeal on both sides for the dignity of the two nations and reached by virtue of good faith, sincerity and understanding which should always guide relations between countries, peoples, and governments. [end recording]

The agreement signed in Bogota, in which Spain and Guatemala reestablish their diplomatic relations, satisfies the demands by the Adolfo Suarez government which were made to the Guatemalan Government without humiliating Guatemala in its wording. The government of General Oscar Humberto Mejia Victores presents its apologies for the storming of the embassy building, recognizes that the attack constitutes a violation of the Vienna convention on diplomatic relations, and accepts the effects and juridical consequences which arise from it. Hence it is prepared to make reparation to the Spanish state for the damage caused. The agreement creates a joint committee which will be responsible for determining the amount and means of reparation payments. The agreement, however, does not specify whether these reparations include the indemnifications to the families of the 38 victims, mostly Guatemalan peasants opposed to the then dictatorship. Military circles in Guatemala recently told this reporter that they did not accept payments to the families of guerrillas. Similarly, in the agreement signed in Bogota, the government of Guatemala commits itself to investigating the incidents which precipated the breaking off of relations, in accordance with its internal laws. According to Guatemalan political circles this investigation will go no further than attaching responsibility to the dictatorship of Romeo Lucas Garcia, buried by two subsequent coups d'etat. At this stage, to accuse Army officers who have already been promoted would add a destabilizing element to a government committed to the installation of democracy. The Spanish-Guatemalan agreement signed today in Bogota was achieved exactly a month ago, on 22 August by means of a document signed by the president and foreign minister of Colombia and the ambassadors of Spain and Guatemala. On that date it was established that in due course the foreign ministers of both countres would sign the joint communique in Bogota. Up to now no one has explained whether the 1 month delay was due to the impossibility until now of one of the foreign ministers' getting to the Colombian capital to sign the protocol or to difficulties encountered in one or both countries for the ratification of the agreement reached by the ambassadors under the arbitration of Belisario Betancur. Diplomatic circles say that the agreement found a certain number of rejections by both countries which were overcome by the authority of General Mejia Victores and by the decisive will of Felipe Gonzalez.

HONDURAS

AUSTRALIA'S HAYDEN ON ROLE IN PEACE PROGRAM

BK231349 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 1230 GMT 23 Sep 84

[Text] Australia has been asked to consider playing a part in the peace program in Central America. Honduras has asked whether Australia might be prepared to participate in an international monitoring group should a peace treaty for Central America be reached. A Radio Australia reporter in Honduras, (Martin Gillan), said the Honduran foreign secretary, Mr Paz. made the request during talks with the foreign affairs minister, Mr Hayden, who had just ended a 2-week tour of the region. (Gillan) said Honduras, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Nicaragua, and El Salvador are considering a Central American peace treaty which calls for nonaggression, an arms reduction, and free elections. He says that if signed, the so-called Contadora treaty would require 30 km nonmilitary zones in border areas which would be monitored by neutral countries.

Dr Paz told Mr Hayden that Australia would be welcomed to participate in this monitoring. (Gillan) says Mr Hayden has described the Contadora treaty as an important (?process) for bringing peace to Central America. But he told Dr Paz that Australia could not yet say whether it would be prepared to send a monitoring team to the region.

Mr Hayden said the Australian Government would need to receive more details of the proposal before it could make such a decision. [Words indistinct] the foreign affairs minister said Australia believed there had been some encouraging developments recently in the Central American peace process. Mr Hayden said one important development had been Nicaragua's decision to sign the Contadora treaty without condition.

ARMY HANDS OVER 'GUERRILLAS' TO EL SALVADOR

WA250945 Rome IPS in English 22 Sep 84

[Text] Tegucigalpa, Sep 22 (IPS) -- The Honduran armed forces handed over 10 presumed Salvadoran guerrillas today to the Salvadoran Army, according to reports from the southern city of Choluteca. The prisoners, thought to be members of the (FMLN), Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front were captured one week ago along the Honduran-Salvadoran border. Honduran troops then took them to the Honduran 10th Infantry Battalion's base at Choluteca, and after intensive questioning, decided to deliver them to the Salvadoran military.

Salvadoran officials reportedly picked up the prisoners in helicopters today at the border post of El Amatillo. The Honduran Army is said to have stepped up operations on the border to prevent FMLN rebels from entering Honduras. The Salvadoran insurgents are accused of carrying out attacks in Honduran territory.

In the last two years, Honduras has blamed the FMLN for several bombings and other attacks in main Honduran cities, although Honduran guerrilla groups claimed responsibility. Five rebel organizations are now operating in Honduras, aiming to overthrow the government of President Roberto Suazo Cordova.

NICARAGUA

CONTADORA DOCUMENT, ORTEGA'S UN VISIT DISCUSSED

PA242330 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 24 Sep 84

[Javier Chamorro Mora, ambassador to the United Nations, telephone interview from New York by unidentified reporter; date not given -- recorded]

[Text] [Chamorro Mora] At the level of UN diplomatic circles [Nicaragua's announcement that it will sign the Contadora Peace Document] has caused a very positive impression because it has clearly defined Nicaragua's disposition and the Sandinist revolution's commitment to peace. The Reagan administration had been trying to manipulate through the media by suggesting that Nicaragua, our government, did not want to sign the document or had serious problems in connection with the revised Contadora Document.

[Reporter] Nicaragua recently denounced a number of counterrevolutionary actions. What response has been received from the U.S. Government?

[Chamorro Mara] Our people should be completely clear about the fact that the only response we have received from the United States has been the continuation of its war of aggression. The United States, particularly the Reagan administration, has continued its war of aggression without restriction, actually trying to step it up, seeking ways to strengthen the mercenary forces that operate from both Honduran and Costa Rican territories; in the latter case without the Costa Rican Government's authorizations. In the coming days and (?months) we should expect stronger (?attacks) from these mercenary forces and the U.S. administration itself. We must not discard the possibility of a direct U.S. attack on presence in Central America. In other words, the response we have came across after making our denunciations, after making our efforts on behalf of peace, and after announcing Nicaragua's willingness to hold dialogues and seek political solutions, is a war of aggression. In this there has been no variation despite the international community's concern and desires.

Commander Daniel Ortega's visit here will be of great importance, since the international community in general is concerned over the situation in Central America, and the attacks against Nicaragua and they are paying close attention to the current developments. Therefore, Commander Ortega's speech on 2 October will, logically, elicit great expectations and will be very important in providing information to the delegations present at the United Nations. His speech will also be important for the countries of the Nonaligned Movement, whose Coordinating Bureau functions here in New York and recently organized a group of friends of the Bureau's president, in order to follow closely the developments against Nicaragua in Central America and the attacks against Nicaragua. For this reason, I repeat, Commander Ortega's presence here and his speech on 2 October at the United Nations will be of great importance from a political standpoint.

Commander Ortega is supposed to arrive here on 30 September. He will remain here 3 or 4 days because in addition to his presentation at the United Nations, his contacts with the secretary general, etc, and his speech for the nonaligned countries, whose foreign ministers will be meeting at the time, he will also hold very important contacts with the U.S. press, U.S. politicians, and other U.S. personalities who have even scheduled certain activities to welcome Commander Ortega and his delegations.

[Reporter] Is there great expectation about Commander Ortega's visit?

[Chamorro Mora] I definitely think so. The U.S. people are very interested because it must be understood that the U.S. people in general are concerned over the war that their government is developing in Central America.

AUTHORITIES EXTEND CANDIDATE REGISTRATION PERIOD

PA250113 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 25 Sep 84

[Supreme Electoral Council "urgent communique" issued in Managua on 24 September]

[Text] The Supreme Electoral Council announces to the political parties, citizens, and the people in general (?that in session) No 19, of 1600 on 24 September 1984, it considered a request from the National Council of Political Parties [CNPP], dated today, signed by CNPP President Hugo Mejia Briceno, to extend the period for political parties and alliances to register their candidates for president and vice president of the Republic and representatives to the national assembly.

Considering the CNPP request and given the Supreme Electoral Council's willingness to give every possible opportunity to the political parties which had legal standing, as of 5 August 1984, which was the last day authorized by the council for registrations, the council, exercising the powers granted by Article 51 of the existing electoral law, resolved:

To amend the electoral calendar, opening a new period for the registration of candidates for the posts of president and vice president of the Republic and for representatives to the national assembly to political parties which, although eligible to register on 5 August of this year, failed to do so as of that date.

During the period beginning on 25 September through 1 October 1984, inclusive, said parties and alliances will be able to register.

[Signed] Supreme Electoral Council, guarantor of the people's vote.

ROBELO ON EFFECTS OF NICARAGUAN, U.S. ELECTIONS

PA231832 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2103 GMT 22 Sep 84

[Text] Paris, 22 Sep (EFE) -- Alfonso Robelo, one of the most prominent leaders of the anti-Sandinist resistance, told EFE here today that the next few weeks will be decisive for Nicaragua. Robelo believes the holding of elections in Nicaragua on 4 November and the U.S. presidential elections in the same month will prompt profound changes in Nicaragua's political situation.

"Everything seems to indicate that the results of the elections in Nicaragua will not legitimize the current Sandinist government, and this government will witness the failure of its efforts to sell the elections abroad," Robelo added. "It may just happen that after the election Sandinist opponents who are still in Nicaragua will begin to go into exile. Then the moment for a great opposition unity will arrive."

In regard to the U.S. elections, Robelo noted that the simple fact that they are being held is a political event of worldwide importance. "We worried about certain remarks by democratic candidate Walter Mondale," he added, "although we know very well that what is said during an electoral campaign is not always what will be done when one assumes office."

Robelo noted the existence of a very important factor, although its effects will not be felt right away: the lack of fighting spirit by the Sandinist forces. "This explains why the Army remains stationed in the cities while it is the militias which go to the rural areas to fight the anti-Sandinists."

With this, Robelo added, the government is trying to create "martyrs" to consolidate a revolution that is seeing the number of its opponents grow, a fact that is resulting in serious military defeats. "The proportion of casualties between the 2 sides is 15 Sandinists to each guerrilla. In 1983 the Sandinists had 3,200 casualties, compared to 180 on the side of the guerrillas."

According to Robelo this could, in the medium-term, prompt the Nicaraguan people to become involved in the armed struggle against the government of the commanders. Asked what he thinks would be the line which will prevail in the group of the nine commanders following the elections, Robelo said: "Although all of them are Marxist-Leninists, one must establish a difference between the radical dogmatic and those who are more receptive to pragmatism."

"The former include Tomas Borge (interior minister) and Jaime Wheelock (agriculture minister)." Those in the center are the Ortega brothers, he said, adding that Humberto (defense minister) is the mastermind: "The most powerful men today are Borge, Humberto Ortega, and Wheelock."

MISURASATA'S RIVERA VOWS TO OPPOSE U.S. INVASION

PA220330 San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish 20 Sep 84 p 10

[Excerpt] Tegucigalpa -- If the U.S. Government were to send troops to invade Nicaragua, the Miskito, Sumu, and Rama Sandinist Unity [Misurasata] organization, a component of the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance [ARDE], will struggle alongside the Nicaraguan people against such a military intervention, Brooklyn Rivera, Misurasta general coordinator, said yesterday.

Rivera, who has been in Honduras for over 5 days, was interviewed yesterday at a hotel in the capital. He was asked about the present status of the armed struggle against the Sandinist regime on the southern front in the wake of the desertion of Alfonso Robelo and Commander Fernando Chamorro, who left ARDE and Eden Pastora and allied themselves with the Somozists of the Nicaraguan Democratic Force.

Rivera, who is in Honduras temporarily in an effort to reunite the Nicaraguan Indian community, said that in the event of a foreign attack on Nicaragua, the Indians would not align themselves with the government or the FSLN, but with the Nicaraguan people in the struggle to repel any attack. Therefore, he said, the United States should not decide on such a course because "the cure could be worse than the disease." He said that the Nicaraguan situation is very complex and delicate and that unless a more responsible and intelligent position is adopted, things could become even more complicated and the United States would emerge unfavorably.

Brooklyn Rivera sees Nicaragua's future as very uncertain, because it is still not possible to clearly foresee what could happen. On this subject, he said that many situations have not yet been clearly defined, such as the status of the Contadora Group's effort and the role being played by the U.S. Government and other Nicaraguan forces that have some bearing on the conflict.

FURTHER REPORTAGE ON ATTACKS ON ARTURO CRUZ

MRCN Condemnation

PA220110 Paris AFP in Spanish 1749 GMT 21 Sep 84

[Text] San Jose, 21 Sep (AFP) -- The Nicaraguan National Rescue and Conciliation Movement [Movimiento Rescate y Conciliacion Nacional de Nicaragua -- MRCN] appealed to "Latin American and European democracies" today to condemn Wednesday's physical attack on opposition leader Arturo Cruz in the Nicaraguan city of Leon. The MRCN, which Cruz and former Nicaraguan Central Bank President Alfredo Cesar lead in exile, said that the attack by the "Sandinists mobs" reveals that there is no political commitment to make the November elections democratic.

"In a cowardly manner, and under the Sandinist commanders' protection and instructions, the infamous mobs have shown that the conditions to hold free elections do not exist in Nicaragua," the statement concluded.

Car Stoned in Boaco

PA220230 Paris AFP in Spanish 2317 GMT 21 Sep 84

[Text] Managua, 21 Sep (AFP) -- This afternoon a Sandinist mob stoned the car of Arturo Cruz, the Democratic Coordinating Board [CDN] candidate, in Boaco, 88 km east of Managua.

Although the opposition leader was unharmed, a stone broke the car's windshield. Cruz was heading for Managua after he and other leaders participated in a party meeting. Approximately 80 Sandinist youths broke through a police cordon that protected Cruz as he was leaving a meeting where approximately 200 of his followers had gathered. CDN President Luis Rivas has said that if these incidents continue to occur "we will not participate in the elections, even if the government gives us all of the guarantees we have been demanding."

Two days ago in Leon, 90 km northwest of Managua, CDN leaders were surrounded by approximately 2,000 Sandinists who tried to lynch them. At the time, Cruz was slightly wounded when a stone was hurled at him.

Police Escort

PA222008 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1931 GMT 22 Sep 84

[Excerpt] Managua, 22 Sep (ACAN-EFE) -- Leaders of the Ramiro Sacasa Guerrero Democratic Coordinating Board who were under siege by Sandinist groups today in Masaya have "broken through", protected by the police and have apparently left the city. The opposition members were going to hold a meeting in a private residence in the eastern city of Masaya, 30 km from the capital, when they were surrounded by a hostile group of approximately 1,500 people. Witnesses who stated behind in the house which was surrounded by the Sandinists called ACAN-EFE this afternoon by telephone and said that the dissident leaders who left the premises include Arturo Cruz and Luis Rivas Leiva.

PUSC Condemns Attack

PA232106 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 23 Sep 84

[Text] In a note sent to Commander Daniel Ortega, coordinator of the Nicaraguan Government junta, the Social Christian Unity Party [PUSC] condemns the attack on opposition candiate Dr Arturo Cruz by Sandinist mobs. The note adds that the PUSC views with indignation the grave incidants being staged against the distinguished Dr Cruz and his companions by the sympathizers of the FSLN. Finally, the PUSC requests that Commander Ortega, in respect for the most basic human rights, provide Dr Cruz and his friends protection in light of this situation.

ARDE DIRECTORATE REACTS TO ATTACK ON CRUZ

PA211240 (Clandestine) Voice of Sandino in Spanish to Nicaragua 2300 GMT 20 Sep 84

[Directorate of the Nicaraguan Democratic Revolutionary Alliance [ARDE] Communique; date and place not given]

[Text] In response to the Somozist-type electoral process, the revolutionary directorate of ARDE reports:

1. The recent incident in Leon, Nicaragua, which ended with a physical attack on Dr Arturo Cruz by FSLN military and paramilitary members, shows once again that the totalitarian government in Managua is not willing to seek a political, peaceful solution to the serious problems facing our fatherland.

2. We once again voice our support for Dr Arturo Cruz' civic effort and protest before the international community the abuse of our people by the regime, which prevents militarily the free expression and dissemination of ideas, prevents freedom of the press, and represses political freedom and the freedom of assembly and association.

3. All those trampled liberties demonstrate the FSLN's totalitarian inclinations and its dictatorial determination not to allow free elections, preventing our people from freeing themselves from an ill-fated tyranny through a democratic process.

4. The international community must view the physical attack on Dr Arturo Cruz as the prelude to terrorist acts by the government of the nine, which make us fear for the lives of democratic leaders in our fatherland.

Without totalitarianism or a return to the past!

[Signed] Brooklyn Rivera, Miskito, Sumu, Rama Sandinist Unity [Misurasata] Directorate President; Commander Eden Pastora, Sandino Revolutionary Front [FRS] Secretary General and General Commander of the ARDE Armed Forces; Jose Davila Membreno, Christian Democratic Solidarity Front [FSDC] Political Secretary; Donald Castillo, Christian Workers Solidarity [STC] Training and Operations Secretary.

BURKINA FASO'S PRESIDENT SANKARA TO VISIT

FL241146 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1045 GMT 24 Sep 84

[Text] Captain Thomas Sankara, president of the National Revolutionary Council and chief of state and government of Burkina Faso, formerly Upper Volta, will arrive tomorrow in Cuba.

Sankara is fulfilling an invitation by Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, first secretary of the party's Central Committee and president of the Councils of State and Ministers.

From the Jose Marti International Airport's terrace and runway, the people of Havana will extend a warm welcome to the representative of this brother African country and to the delegation which accompanies him.

RAMIRO VALDES ON COOPERATION WITH ZIMBABWE

FL241336 Havana Television Service in Spanish 1108 GMT 24 Sep 84

[Text] Harare -- Cuban Politburo member Ramiro Valdes has expressed the firm conviction that his visit to Zimbabwe has strengthened and consolidated relations between the people, government, and parties of Cuba and Zimbabwe.

The Cuban leader made this statement during a press conference at Harper's airport shortly before his departure, at which Minister of State for Security Emmerson Munangagwa, also Politburo member of the Zimbabwe African National Union party [ZANU], and Cuban ambassador Alfonso Fraga attended.

Ramiro Valdes said: Our visit has helped to bring about closer relations between Cuba and Zimbabwe, and allowed the establishing of contacts between leaders from both nations. Questioned on areas of cooperation with Cuba, Ramiro Valdes said that there exists the possibility of cooperating in the economic area, and the application of this cooperation is being discussed by both sides.

ETHIOPIAN REVOLUTION MARKED; MONTANE SPEAKS

FL241246 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1046 GMT 24 Sep 84

[Text] Alternate Politburo member Jesus Montane Oropesa will give a speech tonight at 1800 at the national event held to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the triumph of the Ethiopian revolution. Also speaking at the event will be Aemero Wondimagegnehu, Ethiopia's ambassador to Cuba. Through various activities, the Cuban people have expressed their unrestricted support for the Ethiopian revolution, which since 12 September, 1974 has carried out new and complex activities to achieve consolidation in its tenacious struggle against imperialism.

PEDRO MIRET ATTENDS BULGARIAN FAIR OPENING

FL241536 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1022 GMT 24 Sep 84

[Excerpts] Chairman of Bulgaria's State Council Todor Zhivkov this morning inaugurated the 40th international autumn fair of Plovdiv, at which some 1,800 firms from 30 countries are attending. Pedro Miret Prieto, Politburo member and vice president of the Council of Ministers, was present at the inauguration ceremony of this important Bulgarian event. The Cuban delegation is headed by Minister of Foreign Trade Ricardo Cabrisas.

FAR COMMEMORATES BULGARIAN ARMY ANNIVERSAY

FL242316 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 22 Sep 84

[Text] The main FAR ceremony commemorating the 40th anniversary of the founding of the Bulgarian People's ARmy has been held in the city of Havana. Division General Senen Casas Regueiro, alternate member of the Politburo and vice minister of the FAR, and Bulgarian ambassador to Cuba, Petur Ivanov Marinkov, presided over the ceremony.

At the ceremony, mention was made of the manner in which Bulgaria, bulding socialism by virtue of the great efforts of its people and under the direction of its communist party, has become a developed agricultural-industrial nation. Also mentioned were the friendly relations and especially the assistance that dozens of Bulgarian specialists and technicians give Cuba.

SUGAR ACCORDS WITH MEXICO TO BE REVISED

FL241024 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 20 Sep 84

[Text] Miguel Cano Blanco, alternate Politburo member and first party secretary of Holguin Province, has met with engineer Eduardo (McGregor), director general of Sugar Incorporated, the Mexican governmental body that administers and directs the sugar industry of this brother country.

(McGregor's) visit is in response to the close ties between Mexican and Cuban sugar entities over the last 10 years, and during (McGregor's) stay, existing cooperation agreements will be revised.

The members of the Mexican delegation have been touring sugar refineries and other plants such as the 60th Anniversary of the October revolution and the 26th July Heroes, both factories for manufacturing sugarcane harvesters and agricultural tools.

(McGregor) and his delegation placed a floral wreath before Major General Calixto Garcia's mausoleum at Holguin's revolutionary square.

PERUVIAN AIR FORCE COMMANDER, DELEGATION ARRIVE

FL241300 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 21 Sep 84

[Text] A high level military delegation from the Peruvian Air Force arrived Thursday in Havana. The delegation was headed by the Commanding General of the Peruvian Air Force Lieutenant General Cesar Enrico Praeli, and was met on its arrival by first alternate FAR minister Division General Senen Casas Regueiro.

LEGAL SYMPOSIUM IN HAVANA ENDS WITH RESOLUTION

PA240441 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 23 Sep 84

[Text] The first Scientific Symposium on Legal Policies and Ideology, which met for 3 days in the Havana Palace of Conventions, has ended with the unanimous approval of its final resolution by approximately 400 Cubans and foreign guests in attendance.

Luis Sola Vila, dean of the Havana University Faculty of Law, read the document that stressed the symposium's importance to the improvement of Cuba jurists. He said that it allowed a retrospective examination of revolutionary achievements and of the Cuba legal and institutional systems.

The document condemned U.S. aggressive, warmongering, and confrontation policy toward the peoples of El Salvador and Nicaragua. It also expressed support for the patriots of Puerto Rico, Chile, Uruguay, Paraguay, Haiti, Guatemala, and Grenada.

Cuban Justice Minister Juan Escalona, after stressing the forum's critical nature, reviewed part of the history of legal practice and theory. He also pointed out that there is no right that can legitimize the poverty of millions of Third World human beings who are being exploited and die of hunger, victimized by imperialist looting.

Escalona stressed that genuine revolutionary law is not based on repressing those who commit crimes but on eradicating the objective and subjective factors bringing about criminal behavior.

After warning the world about the dangerous hostility of imperialism toward socialist countries, Escalona asked: What right does Washington have to talk demagogically about negotiated solutions to area conflicts and to determine with impunity the destiny of millions of hungry, ignorant, and sick human beings?

Blas Roca and Jose Machado Ventura, members of the Communist Party of Cuba Politburo, presided over the closing session of the first legal seminar in Havana.

REAGAN USES UN AS 'FORUM FOR ELECTIONEERING'

FL242204 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1803 GMT 24 Sep 84

[Text] In his address to the UN General Assembly, U.S. President Ronald Reagan affected a conciliatory tone towards the USSR by avoiding the discussion of the causes of the stagnation of present bilateral U.S.-USSR relations. Reagan dared to say that he has begun a diplomatic process that favors peace in Central America, in which region U.S. political and military intervention is increasing every day.

The chief of the warmongering Yankee administration said today to the UN General Assembly that he is willing to participate in constructive negotiations with the USSR and to seek solutions to regional conflicts.

U.S. President Ronald Reagan, who is a candidate for reelection, converted the UN General Assembly into one more forum for electioneering.

'OUR AMERICA' VIEWS SALVADORAN PRESIDENT'S TOUR

PA231306 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 23 Sep 84

["Our America" commentary]

[Text] Jose Napoleon Duarte, chief of the Salvadoran regime, is on a tour of several Latin American countries, seeking political support for what he calls the deep internal reforms he claims are currently under way in his country on behalf of peace and national conciliation. Duarte has said that he supports the Contadora Group peace efforts. However, he added that he will not negotiate with the FMLN-FDR of El Salvador. We are all involved, he said in Caracas, in an effort to put an end to violence of the right and left, which has plunged El Salvador into a serious political crisis.

Duarte's statements are similar to those we often hear from U.S. Government officials and spokesmen, including President Ronald Reagan, because Duarte, like his bosses in Washington, is trying to conceal with words what is being put into practice every day. That is, growing U.S. intervention in Central America.

It is really impossible to believe what Duarte is saying. While he talks about peace, the U.S. State Department talks about delivering to Salvadoran Armed Forces more arms and ammunition. According to State Department spokesmen, some 15 Huey helicopters will be sent to El Salvador in the next 3 months. With this new shipment, the number of Huey helicopters in the hands of the Salvadoran Army will total 50.

The purpose behind this new shipment of helicopters is to increase the maneuverability of the Army and rapid deployment ot combat zones. To this we must add that the Salvadoran Government will build a new military airport in San Miguel Department which will serve as base for all the helicopters of the Salvadoran Air Force. It was also learned that the Pentagon will deliver two CH-47 helicopters to the Salvadoran Army with which it will bomb rural zones in the country.

The new military supplies delivered to the Salvadoran Government are part of the additional aid that President Ronald Reagan approved for El Salvador this year. The U.S. support to the Salvadoran Army is also included in the technical aid given to its armed units. The United States has trained more than 20 battalions of the Salvadoran Army, which comprises more than 30,000 soldiers. Since last year, some 160 Green Berets have been training Salvadoran forces in Puerto Castilla, on the Atlantic coast of Honduras.

THE WASHINGTON POST said this week that through little but frequent steps, U.S. commitments in Central America are increasing and are becoming part of a dramatic escalation of its military presence in El Salvador. Under the headline "What Will Happen in El Salvador After the U.S. Elections?" THE WASHINGTON POST comments on how the U.S. Government has increased its direct participation in the military and political development in that Central American country in recent years.

Nothing of what the U.S. Government has done in El Salvador has served to obtain peace or well-being among Salvadorans, THE WASHINGTON POST says.

In view of this, what peace and national conciliation is President Duarte talking about in his tour of Latin America? It is all part of a new diplomatic offensive to justify the crimes of his government against the heroic Salvadoran people.

DUARTE ON U.S. INVOLVEMENT IN EL SALVADOR

PA212132 Havana International Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 21 Sep 84

[Excerpt] A dispatch datelined in Washington states that Salvadoran President Jose Napoleon Duarte admitted in statements to the U.S. magazine PLAYBOY that the priorities in the military operations against the guerrillas in his country are decided by the United States. Therefore, it is the White House that sustains the war by supplying arms and financial resources. Duarte also reiterated his support for U.S. financing of the Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries.

PLANE DOWNED IN COSTA RICA CARRIED MILITARY GOODS

PA230328 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 23 Sep 84

[Text] The Costa Rican Judicial Investigation Organization, OIJ, reported from San Carlos, that the plane that crashed on 10 August, in the northern part of the country, was transporting military supplies for the Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries. The OIJ reported that the plane was flown from El Salvador by a pilot named Barrera, who has disappeared.

Meanwhile, the Costa Rica newspaper LA NACION reported that the plane flown by Barrera landed at the hacienda owned by John Hull, a U.S. citizen, who has been linked to the counterrevolutionaries.

GUATEMALAN ORPA MEMBER DETAILS SAN MARCOS CLASH

PA212302 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 21 Sep 84

[(Julio Alberto Garcia), member of the Guatemalan Revolutionary Organization of the People of Arms [ORPA]; interviewed by Radio Havana journalist Nestor Nunez -- recorded]

[Text] [Nunez] We heard that ORPA recently defeated the largest offensive ever launched by the regime that governs your country. We would like to know some of the details regarding the activity carried out by your organization.

[Garcia] Yes, indeed. The Army recently launched an offensive which involved approximately 8,000 soldiers, including 2,000 kaibiles, troops specialized in counter-insurgency. The Army had never launched such a large offensive against a guerrilla-controlled zone. We could describe it as a saturation offensive because it was an attempt to surround a rebel-controlled area through all means. The area is located in San Marcos Department, around the Tajumulco Volcano, and comprises approximately 40 km.

The Army deployed all of its forces against the zone with the intention of at least forcing the guerrillas to withdraw from the area. However, the Army failed to achieve any of its objectives; on the contrary, a series of clashes were held during 10-12 days and the rebels inflicted many casualties, thus proving the level of military experience they have achieved and their close relationship with the people in the area. This type of overall offensive can only be countered when a close relationship with the people exists in addition to the rebels' knowledge of the area.

ORPA has been working in that zone for many years. The Army launched this offensive because of ORPA's recruiting activities in the zone. The area is comprised of large agricultural farms and coffee plantations so the Army was forced to deploy its troops there, but the guerrilla groups inflicted more than 100 casualties on them. Our greatest victory is that the guerrilla groups successfully defended their positions and areas of influence, and did not withdraw. The Army was forced to withdraw after the offensive was defeated, but the guerrilla members remain in the zone. The rebels are not working for the people's political consolidation.

[Nunez] (Julio Alberto) what are the repercussions in the internal sector of ORPA's victory over the regimes largest military offensive?

[Garcia] Naturally, ORPA feels that this victory represents the results of the many years of political and military work; it is the result of the concentration of forces being organized by the group for approximately 2 years; and it will increase our revolutionary morale even more and prove that the Guatemalan revolution is advancing toward victory. The defeat of the Army's offensives is precisely what will mark the guidelines in this new phase of our revolutionary process. The Army has launched three counter-insurgency operations since April of this year. One was launched in Suchitepequez in late April, another at El Petin in mid-June, and now the one in San Marcos. Naturally, the one launched in San Marcos was the strongest, due to the large number of troops deployed by the Army.

The Army was defeated in the three offensives, each time with greater force. Therefore, we [words indistinct] near future the fact that the Army is compelled to come to rebel-controlled areas, engage in clashes, and leave after being defeated. In our advance, the guerrilla groups will be able to annihilate troops, recover more weapons, and even seize prisoners. This is a logical consequence of the kind of operations launched by the Army; it is a complex situation in the revolutionary process because it is believed that the Army has the offensive and the guerrilla groups are on the defensive.

However, the mere fact that the Army must come the guerrilla-controlled areas represents a victory and it will surely attract more men to the guerrilla movement.

Likewise, the rebels were defending their positions, that is true, but they were doing it in an active way because we ambushed the Army's rearguard. The Army believed it had cornered the guerrilla groups and we attacked its rearguard many times. In truth, the Army was never on the offensive and that is an important fact. It proves that the Guatemalan rebels have achieved an important experience in the military sector.

HONDURAN WORKERS, STUDENTS PROTEST U.S. PRESENCE

PA212153 Havana International Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 21 Sep 84

[Text] A demonstration led by Honduran workers and students marched through the streets of Tegucigalpa to protest the presence of 2,000 U.S. troops in Honduras. The troops have been participating in joint miligary maneuvers with Honduras since January 1983. At the same time, the demonstrators expressed their support for the 2,000 workers in the state-owned National Electric Power Enterprise who 48 hours ago decreed an indefinite strike to demand higher wages. The Honduran workers' decision to strike is the result of the government's refusal to agree to their demands for a 10-percent wage increase.

NICARAGUA'S ORTEGA URGES CONTADORA APPROVAL

PA232336 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 23 Sep 84

[Text] Commander Daniel Ortega, coordinator of the Nicaraguan Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction, called on other Central American countries and the United States to accept the Contadora Group's revised document without any amendments as the Nicaraguan authorities did.

Daniel Ortega said that to advocate amendments is like saying we want war. He invited the governments of Honduras, Guatemala, Costa Rica, and El Salvador to approve the document sent by the Contadora Group to the area's heads of state on 7 September. As for the United States, the Nicaraguan leader said that if Washington complies with the Contadora Group's directives, attacks on Nicaragua would automatically stop. Daniel Ortega described as genuine genocide the attacks suffered by Nicaragua that have caused the death of 7,000 people.

The Nicaraguan Defense Minister [Humberto Ortega] issued a communique reporting that dozens of counterrevolutionaries fell in combat during the past few hours in the country's northern and eastern areas. The most fierce fighting took place in the Condega area of Esteli to the north and south of Quilali, Nueva Segovia Department in the vicinity of San Sebastian de Yali in Jinotega.

ST VINCENT'S PRIME MINISTER CONDEMNS U.S.

PA222201 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 22 Sep 84

[Text] James Mitchell, St Vinvent's prime minister, condemned the U.S. Government's aggressive plans against countries in the Caribbean area. In an interview with the CARIBBEAN REGIONAL REPORT Mitchell said that he is against the militarization of the eastern Caribbean countries which belong to the United States. St Vincent's prime minister stressed that the Caribbean basin does not need military aid but needs socioeconomic development programs and rejected the U.S. campaign aimed at trying to prove the existence of a foreign threat to the countries of the area.

BARBADOS

OIL PRODUCTION INCREASE CAUSES STORAGE SHORTAGE

FL241700 Bridgetown CANA in English 1839 GMT 21 Sep 84

[Text] Bridgetown,Barbados, Sep 21, CANA -- Barbados has sold some 15,000 barrels of locally produced crude oil to Shell Antilles and Guianas Limited for shipment to their refinery in Curacao in an effort to alleviate a temporary shortage of storage space here. A spokesman for government's Energy Division said the current shortage of storage facilities was due to the fact that Barbados National Oil Company had increased its daily crude production and that renovative and upgrading work at the sole local refinery had temporarily reduced storage capacity.

The Barbados National Oil Company now produces about 1,800 barrels of crude oil per day.

BERMUDA

OPPOSITION MEMBERS CRITICIZE LEADER, SUSPENDED

FL220042 Bridgetown CANA in English 2253 GMT 21 Sep 84

[Text] Hamilton, Bermuda, Sept 21, CANA -- Six members of Bermuda's opposition Progressive Labour Party have been suspended after publicly criticising leader Lois Browne-Evans, according to the ROYAL GAZETTE newspaper. The dissidents were named as party whip Gilbert Darrell, parliamentarians Austin Thomas, Lionel Simmons, and Walter Brangham, and party members Calvin Smith and Roger Russel.

Unrepentant about their call for Browne-Evans to stand down, they said the suspension reinforced their concern that she did not possess the qualities to lead the PLP to victory. Browne-Evans has led the predominately black PLP for a total of twelve years, including the past eight. But the party has never won an election against the multiracial ruling United Bermuda Party, and at the last poll in 1983 lost four seats.

The GAZETTE said a three-member disciplinary panel set up to hear the charges against the six had made no judgement.

The suspensions will remain in effect pending a delegates conference on Octobet 28. If they are upheld, the PLP will have only 10 MP's in the House of Assembly compared to government's 26 when parliament reconvenes. The four suspended would sit as independents.

DOMINICA

INVESTMENT AGREEMENT TO BE SIGNED WITH FRG

FL211222 Bridgetown CANA in English 2359 GMT 20 Sep 84

[Text] Roseau, Dominica, Sept 20 CANA -- West German Ambassador to Dominica Reit Berger arrives here at month end to sign a bilateral investment agreement, a government statement said today. The bilateral investment agreement is geared at identifying the economic cooperation between the two countries. It is also aimed at creating favourable conditions for investment by nationals and companies of either state in the territory of the other.

The agreement was originally scheduled to have been signed in August, but unforeseen circumstances had resulted in the non-arrival of the charge d'affaires to Dominica, Dr Hans Schumacher, officials here said.

The government statement said that Ambassador Berger will be accompanied by an attache from the West German Embassy in Trinidad and Tobago and that the signing will take place in October. They will hold discussions with Prime Minister Eugenia Charles and Education Minister Charles Maynard, as well as meet with the bishop of Roseau, Arnold Bogharet.

GRENADA

BRATHWAITE ON STUDENTS IN SOVIET UNION, CUBA

FL241856 Bridgetown CANA in English 1641 GMT 22 Sep 84

[Text] St George's, Grenada, Sept 23, CANA -- Chairman of Grenada's interim government Nicholas Brathwaite says Grenadian nationals studying in Communist bloc countries should be carefully monitored on their return home because they may be security risks. "I think we would just have to be careful because one doesn't know what training they might be receiving or what kinds of plots might be hatched and I would say we would have to be vigilant," he told CANA.

The students are mainly in the Soviet Union, Cuba, and East Germany on scholarships obtained by the left-wing People's Revolutionary Government (PRG) which was ousted in a bloody coup last October. The interim government, installed after a U.S.-led invasion that was prompted by the slaying of top PRG leaders, including Prime Minister Maurice Bishop, in the coup tried unsuccessfully to get all the students to come home.

Braithwaite said they would get jobs in the government service on their return as long as places are available and their qualifications are acceptable. But care will have to be taken that they are not placed in "sensitive" positions, he added.

The interim government does not know exactly how many Grenadians are studying in Communist bloc countries. Over 100 were sent by the Ministry of Education, but the Ministry of National Security also sent some for training. The files belonging to this ministry were destroyed during last October's political disturbances. Braithwaite said over 50 have returned from Cuba since February, and several had left East Germany recently for London to seek places at British universities to complete their studies. He said the interim government was looking for places in American institutions for the 50 who came back from Cuba.

The scholarships covered a wide range of technical and academic subjects, including medicine, agronomy, and engineering.

GOVERNMENT TO RETURN CUBAN AIRLINES PLANE

PA241734 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1522 GMT 24 Sep 84

[Text] Saint George's, 25 Sep (EFE) -- Nicholas Brathwaite, president of the interim government council, has announced that Grenada will return a Cuban airlines plane to Cuba, but will keep the Cuban equipment used in the construction of the Point Salines international airport.

Brathwaite added that the plane is being repaired by Canadians at Pearls Airport on the country's eastern coast, where the aircraft has been stranded since last October's coup that ended Maurice Bishop's socialist government and provoked a U.S.-directed invasion. He said that the aircraft will be returned to Cuba via Mexico when repairs are completed, but did not say who will fly the plane.

The Cuban airlines operated a weekly service between Havana and Grenada during Bishop's government, but suspended this service due to the coup. Air traffic between the two countries remains suspended.

Brathwaite asserted, however, that Grenada will withhold the equipment, worth millions, used for the construction of the Point Salines Airport. According to Brathwaite, the cooperation agreement between Grenada and Cuba that was signed by late Prime Minister Bishop makes this equipment the property of his country.

CARS FOR POLICE FORCE RECEIVED FROM SOUTH KOREA

FL241654 Bridgetown CANA in English 1735 GMT 22 Sep 84

[Text] St George's, Grenada, Sep 22, CANA -- The interim administration here has taken delivery of 15 vehicles, a gift from South Korea, for use by the Royal Grenada Police Force, now being re-built after being deemphasized in favour of the Army by the former government, it has been officially announced. State-owned Radio Grenada said the keys for the cars were handed over to the head of the interim government Nicolas Brathwaite by the South Korean Ambassador Chang Sun-sue.

Brathwaite wished for a strengthening of bilateral relations, which were broken off during the rule of his predecessors, the left-wing People's Revolutionary Government (PRG). The PRG, which came to power following a March 13, 1979 coup, immediately broke ties with South Korea and instead established diplomatic relations with communist North Korea. The PRG was ousted last October 19 in a military uprising.

JAMAICA

MANLEY ON NICARAGUAN ACCEPTANCE OF PEACE PROPOSAL

FL242044 Bridgetown CANA in English 1615 GMT 24 Sep 84

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, Sept 24, CANA -- Former Jamaican Prime Minister Michael Manley has welcomed the declaration of readiness by Nicaragua's Sandinist Government to sign the Central American peace proposals of the Contadora Group. In a remark clearly directed to Washington, Manley said the declaration by the Sandinists should remove all excuses for further foreign interference in Nicaragua's affairs. He said he hoped all other parties in the Central American conflict would agree to the peace proposals.

The United States has accused the Sandinists, who came to power in the 1979 revolution that overthrew the Somoza dictatorship, of arming left-wing rebels in El Salvador and causing tensions in Central America by a massive military build-up. Washington aids right-wing groups operating out of Costs Rica and Honduras, attempting to bring down the Sandinists.

The Contadora Group, Mexico, Venezuela, Panaman, and Colombia, have been working on a peace plan for the region, and Washington has said it supports the Group's initiatives. An important element of the Contadora proposal is the removal of foreign military advisers from the countries involved in the conflict, and a pledge of non-interference.

Manley, a vice president of the Socialist International, said his People's National Party applauded the decision of the Sandinists. "We say to all parties in the conflict that there can never be an excuse now for interference in Nicaragua's affairs," Manley told the closing session of his party's conference. "Leave the Nicaraguans to work out their own problems." he added: "There was never a right to interfere, but there might have been an excuse."

FOREIGN MINISTER SUPPORTS 3D WORLD SUMMIT

FL242030 Bridgetown CANA in English 1516 GMT 24 Sep 84

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Sept 24, CANA -- Guyana says it is hoping that the current session of the United Nations General Assembly will deal with the rising climate of international tension and the global economic crisis. The socialist government's position was outlined by Foreign Minister Rashleigh Jackson prior to his departure yesterday for New York to attend the meeting. Jackson said Guyana welcomed the idea put forward by the so-called Group of 77, a Third World caucus, for a summit of leaders of the developing world. "Guyana has always expressed support for such an idea, particularly in view of the need for greater South-South cooperation," he said. Jackson is expected to hold talks in New York with colleagues from sister states in the Caribbean Community (Caricom) to discuss issues on the assembly's agenda considered of great relevance to the Caribbean. Jackson will address the General Assembly on October 3. Guyana's delegation includes permanent secretary in the Foreign Ministry, Dennis Gouveia; Guyana's permanent representative to the United Nations, Noel Sinclair; Ambassador to the United States Dr Cedric Grant, and Ambassador to Venezuela Rudy Collins.

JAGAN SAYS PPP SEEKS PATRIOTIC FRONT GOVERNMENT

FL241958 Bridgetown CANA in English 1756 GMT 23 Sep 84

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Sept 23, CANA -- Guyana's Marxist opposition Peoples Progressive Party (PPP) is not interested in displacing the ruling Peoples National Congress (PNC) but in forming a national patriotic front government, according to PPP leader Dr Cheddi Jagan. In an interview published by the CATHOLIC STANDARD newspaper, Dr Jagan said: "If the People's Progressive Party came to power it would have the enormous task of rebuilding a shattered economy, racial strife would again occur, as it has in the past, and the security of the country would be threatened from outside, as has happened in Nicaragua. Dr Jagan denied that talks were in progress between the socialist PNC and the PPP with a view to the two parties teaming up. He said there had been no talks between the parties since 1977. He listed his party's conditions for joining in any national front government. As democracy here, an anti-imperialist outlook, and a "socialist orientation." [sentence as received]

The paper quoted Jagan as saying that the PNC at all "levels did not practise democracy." "The PNP had made some progress in anti-imperialism. It had joined the Free Mandela campaign, proposed years ago by the PPP, and the two parties had collected signatures separately," Dr Jagan said. "We are now pushing them on Afghanistan and Kampuchea." Dr Jagan accused the PNC of having been, over the years, inconsistent on anti-imperialism. He said the government had not allowed demonstrations and marches, and had used strike-breaking measures with the employment of troops, and had victimized pickets in their employment. "The alternative of armed struggle was not favoured by the PPP, as it would result in racial warfare in which, given the present circumstances, the PPP would be at a disadvantage," Dr Jagan said. "The PPP was therefore directing its efforts toward the workers movement. Already some signs of progress were visible in that the bauxite workers were no longer with the PNC," he added. Dr Jagan agreed that with the PNC failing to get more funds from the West and having to turn to the East, there were signs of the PNC drawing closer to the PPP's position." The PNC will celebrate 20 years in office on December 14.

ECUADOR

TRIBUNAL PRESIDENT TO OBSERVE NICARAGUAN ELECTIONS

PA211414 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1130 GMT 21 Sep 84

[Text] Eustorgio Mendoza, president of the Supreme Electoral Tribunal, has received an invitation from the Nicaraguan Electoral Council, and he will travel to that Central American Country in the near future to observe the electoral process under-way there which will lead to the 4 November elections.

BRIEFS

AMBASSADOR TO U.S. -- President Leon Febres Cordero has designated Mario Ribadeneira to the post of Ecuadoran extraordinary and plenipotentiary ambassador to the United States. [Summary] [Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1130 GMT 12 Sep 84 PA]

AMBASSADOR TO CUBA RESIGNS -- Quito, 11 Sep (AFP) -- Ecuadoran President Leon Febres Cordero has accepted the resignation submitted by Ecuadoran Ambassador to Cuba Eduardo Santos Alvite, who assumed his post 15 months ago when the two nations resumed diplomatic relations at the ambassadorial level. The Foreign Ministry has not yet appointed a new ambassador. [Summary] [Paris AFP in Spanish 1448 GMT 11 Sep 84 PA]

ANDEAN DEVELOPMENT LOAN -- The Andean Development Corporation, CAF, granted Ecuador a $3,890,000 loan today to help finance a rural development program in Chimborazo Province. The credit was signed in Caracas by Alfredo Luna Tobar, Ecuadoran ambassador plenipotentiary to Venezuela, and Jose Cardenas, CAF Executive President. [Summary] [Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1130 GMT 14 Sep 84 PA]

URUGUAY

FOREIGN MINISTERS MAESO LEAVES FOR U.S.

PY241715 Montevideo Radio El Espectador Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 24 Sep 84

[Text] Uruguayan Foreign Minister Carlos Maeso has departed for the United States. Maeso will represent our country at the UNGA. Dr Jose Alvarez Olloniego, the current under secretary for foreign affairs, will be acting foreign minister.

EXILE DETAINED BY MILITARY UPON ARRIVAL

PY241415 Paris AFP in Spanish 1440 GMT 23 Sep 84

[Excerpt] Montevideo, 23 Sep (AFP) -- It was announced here today that an Uruguayan exile was apparently arrested upon arriving at Carrasco Airport after a 12-year absence. After getting off the plane that brought him from Buenos Aires, Benjamin Liberoff, 35, was taken to a waiting room while his papers were being seized. [Words indistinct] the consultations made by airport officials, Liberoff left the airport escorted by a uniformed Armed Forces member and by another person who reportedly identified himself as a noncommissioned officer. Asked about the alleged arrest of Liberoff and the reasons for the measure, official sources refused to make any comments.